

VOLUME 113 • NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2000 • \$5.00

The Numismatist

FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY



Crime and Perseverance: Recovering the du Pont Coins

by Edward C. Rochette

Auctions by Bowers and Merena

plus

The American Numismatic Association

plus

The ANA Sale of the Millennium
August 9-12, 2000, Philadelphia, PA

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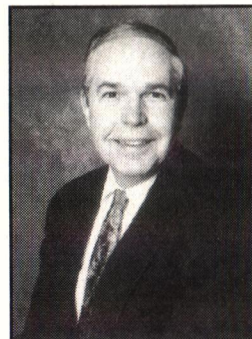
Take advantage of a winning combination! Bowers and Merena and the ANA are planning one of the most exciting and important auctions of the year. Jump on our bandwagon and it may well be one of the most financially rewarding decisions you have ever made.

Share in our success! The ANA and the Bowers and Merena organization have been at the forefront of numismatics for decades. We have conducted multiple auctions, published the *ANA Centennial History 1891-1991*, served on the ANA Board of Governors and as President, contributed to *The Numismatist* by writing the "Coins and Collectors" column, and, most importantly, have been the enthusiastic champions of the hobby.

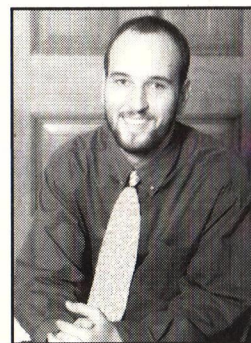
Of the top 10 world's record prices for United States coins, we hold six, including spots 1, 2, and 3—the Childs specimen of the 1804 Draped Bust silver dollar for \$4.14 million, the Eliasberg specimen of the 1804 Draped Bust silver dollar at \$1.815 million and the Eliasberg 1913 Liberty nickel at \$1.485. When the time comes for you to sell your valuable collection, no matter what the size, the same expertise that brought the world's most valuable U.S. collections to market, will showcase your coins as well.

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The Numismatist

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CRIME & NUMISMATICS

Crime and Perseverance

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EDWARD C. ROCHETTE

U.S. NUMISMATICS

An Artist's Brush with Numismatics

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THOMAS F.X. O'MARA

U.S. COINAGE

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MILAN SKODNY

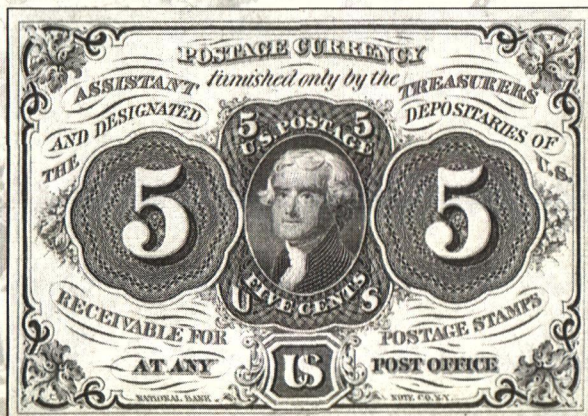
COLLECTORS & COLLECTING

Reviving Your Coin Club

- 180 Is your coin club suffering from the "blahs"? The author offers ideas for rejuvenating meetings and resuscitating the organization.

B. MICHAEL THORNE

Noted watercolorist Winslow Homer had a talent for capturing details of everyday life in Civil War America, among them "payday" for Northern troops (page 169).





COVER

ANA Executive Director Ed Rochette relates from firsthand experience the story behind the rare coins stolen from the du Pont family in 1967 (page 164).

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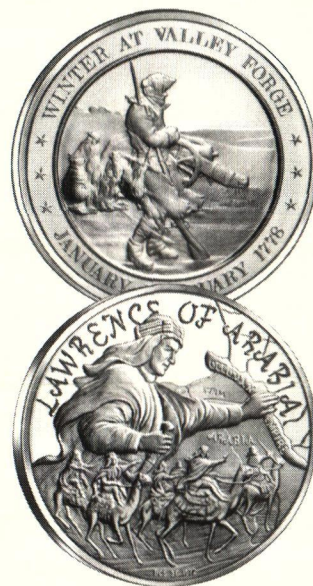


Slovakian men returning from World War I may have carried collectable, United States coinage in their pockets (page 176).

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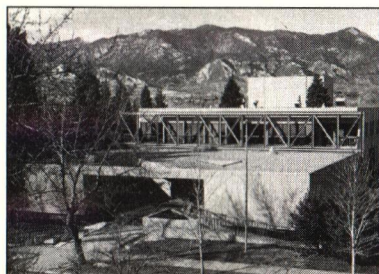


Beautifully crafted medals produced by The Franklin Mint in the 1960s and '70s often are overlooked and underappreciated (page 193).

www.ngegold.com

Mark Jaffee, LM 2251

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I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic Association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

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The Numismatist (ISSN 0029-6090) is published monthly by the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279. Periodicals postage is paid at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and at additional mailing offices (Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement Number 1432370). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279.

Annual membership dues (with the exception of Associate membership) include \$15 for a one-year subscription to *The Numismatist*. Advertising inquiries should be addressed to the director of membership, marketing and advertising; all other matters concerning *The Numismatist* should be directed to the editor. Authors of unsolicited manuscripts should refer to the journal's "Information for Authors," published periodically throughout the year. The editor assumes no responsibility for unsolicited photographs and manuscripts. Opinions expressed in articles published in *The Numismatist* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the American Numismatic Association or the editorial staff.

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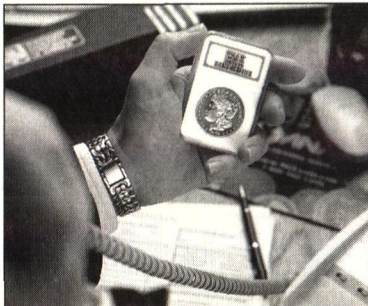
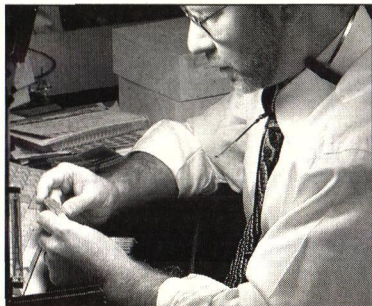
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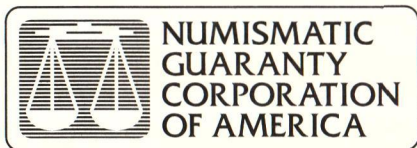
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Coin Show Hunting Is Full of Adventure

A WONDERFUL EVENT awaits numismatists in just a few weeks—the ANA National Money Show™ in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (March 3-5). I would like to officially invite everyone for one of the most rewarding adventures that our hobby offers, a numismatic convention.

The start of a coin show is like the beginning of a great hunt. The night before usually is a sleepless one for me. I'm always so excited about the prospect of finding new treasures lying unknown in a dealer's showcase or stock boxes. Knowledge of rarity and value are the tracking tools of the coin show hunter in search of an excellent deal. And "sharpshooting" skills come into play as you are about to bag that special find.

Everyone who attends a coin show is tracking some item they admire, want or need. With the instincts of primitive hunters and gatherers, modern numismatists fill this innate urge by attending ANA conventions and coin shows around the country. However, coins are not the only game to be had at a show. Many people seek and discover knowledge, information and camaraderie at these numismatic events.

Just before last year ended, I went on two coin "safari's." In November, I attended the 35th Annual Hawaii State Numismatic Association Show on Waikiki beach in Honolulu. Friendships and that famous island hospitality bring me back again and again.

It always is fun to see what dealers bring by air (considering the tough drive). For example, I found a \$1

FROM YOUR
PRESIDENT
.....
BY H. ROBERT CAMPBELL

Pony Express stamp with an 1860 Pony Express cancellation on it to add to my collection. Years ago, I sold one and thought I wouldn't find another. It just proves that you never know what you will discover at a coin show.

My second trip was in December to the New York International Numismatic Convention in Manhattan. There I found the neatest little 2-real Bolivian cob for my wife's birthday. The coin was dated 1684 and in Extremely Fine condition. It was mounted in an 18kt-gold pin, and a bargain at \$60. I also had a blast representing the ANA, signing up 48 members during these two shows.

While in New York, I visited our sister organization—the American Numismatic Society (ANS)—and saw both its old headquarters uptown near Columbia University and new building in the financial district in lower Manhattan. I know the ANS and the ANA can work together to improve our hobby for both collectors and dealers in our respective organizations.

With some time to spare in New York, I was able to make it up to Sotheby's to view the gold bars and coins of the U.S.S. *Central America*, which sank in a storm off the coast of the Carolinas in 1857. Holding one of the 50-pound gold bars was much more difficult than I thought it would be, but an unforgettable experience for this coin show hunter.

If all this sounds like fun, then I invite all ANA members to the Association's 109th Anniversary Convention—World's Fair of Money® 2000—in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 9-13. Already it is shaping up to be the largest and best to date.

Remember, whatever your numismatic quarry, you can find it and more when you come to an ANA show. I hope you will join me and all the other big game enthusiasts in one of the greatest adventures in life—numismatics. •



ANA President Bob Campbell (LM-3663) started collecting coins as a boy in Utah. He and his wife, Carol, now own and operate All About Coins, Inc., a shop in Salt Lake City that he frequented as a youngster. Here he hefts a 50-pound gold bar salvaged from the wreck of the U.S.S. *CENTRAL AMERICA*. The bar and other treasures from the 1857 shipwreck were on display at Sotheby's New York Office in December.

H. Robert Campbell



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- 1) E-mail: 2000survey@heritagecoin.com and request a copy
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Love Those Tokens!

WHAT EXACTLY IS a “love token”? According to Lloyd Entenmann, past president of the Love Token Society and author of *Love Tokens as Engraved Coins*, it is “unique, fascinating, interesting . . . a physical expression of an affection that exists between two persons.” Entenmann

explains that love tokens first gained popularity in the United States around the beginning of the Civil War. Most were silver 10-cent pieces, hand-engraved with a scene and/or the initials or name of a loved one.

However, the origin of these “tokens of love” can be traced to Great Britain in the late 1700s. Most were engraved on both sides of what appear to be low-value, copper coins. It is difficult to know for sure if they are indeed coins, as the surfaces and rims were completely smoothed prior to engraving. I don’t believe any of this matters to collectors though, as the pieces are charming and commonly accepted by all. (I must add here that the English refer to these pieces as “engraved coins.” The term “love token” is an American invention.)

Falling under the category of “engraved coins” are a variety of related issues. For example, military personnel or members of fraternal organizations (such as the Masons or Odd Fellows) sometimes kept engraved coins or medals as souvenirs. I have an early French military medal that has been planed down and inscribed IN MEMORY OF in black enamel. The quality of the enameling is very nice, and the piece expresses a stirring sentiment. Even though it was not created from a coin, I consider the piece to be a love token of sorts.

Another interesting specimen in my collection is a Civil War token on which is engraved a person’s name and town. It has a large, crude hole at the top and may have been worn for identification (a “dog tag”). I also have a silver coin carrying an engraved name and address.



It, too, has a hole and may have been used as a luggage tag. (Ornate, sterling-silver luggage tags were popular in the Victorian era; perhaps this was a less costly alternative!)

I believe close cousins of love tokens (and certainly worthy of being called “engraved coins”) are hobo

nickels (Indian Head nickels on which the obverse and/or reverse images have been carved to resemble people or animals) and “potty” dollars (Seated Liberty dollars on which the figure of Liberty has been altered to make her appear to be sitting on a commode).

Sadly, hand-engraving is a dying art. If we want the tradition of love tokens and related issues to continue, we must revive this time-honored tradition (or simply learn to accept machine engraving). Such engraving is labor-intensive and requires a trained, steady hand. It is quite expensive to have done, provided you can even find someone to do it.

In an effort to fill holes in my type sets of love tokens (that is, a collection organized by the types of coins used), I have had to accept some machine engraving. I have thought about engraving several, modern clad coins for my collection, but then they would not carry the special sentiments of the original giver. Somehow it seems a little dishonest.

In closing, collecting love tokens and other engraved issues is much like collecting circulating coins. Focus on what you like and buy what you want. Regardless of what you pursue, it is certain to develop into a love affair. •

Carol Harmes is vice president of the Love Token Society (LTS), a national organization claiming more than 200 members. To learn more, visit the Society’s web site at lovetokensociety.homepage.com or write to LTS, 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd., Manhattan, KS 66503.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff.

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LETTERS

Photomicrography Service Is No Small Deal

I was surprised to see the fine photographic services offered by ANA Collector Services described as "microphotography." I seriously doubt that most people want microscopic images of their coins. More likely, you're referring to "photomicrography," which means taking photographs through a microscope. But now you've got me thinking: how many 50 State Quarters™ will fit on the head of a pin?

Dan Friedus, LM 4878

A 100-perCent Solution

The December 1999 issue of *The Numismatist* lamented the absence of the cent (c) sign on computer keyboards ("Keyboards Have No Cents," p. 1408). I solved that problem years ago. As the publisher of *Error Trends Coin Magazine*, I found the cent character essential in most advertisements and articles. To make it easier to use, I resorted to the "macro" function available in most computer software programs.

A macro is a recorded series of key-strokes that can be recalled with the stroke of just one key. This utility makes it possible to store literally dozens of strokes as one command.

It makes no difference whether the program is DOS- or Windows-based. In my DOS program (Symantec Q&A), I assigned the "c" to the lowercase "~/" key. In my Windows program, I assigned it to the "F12" key. In ASCII, the code for the cent sign is Alt-0162. Since each program has its own peculiarities,

Potent Medicine

That Donn Pearlman is a "pearl." They say laughter is the best medicine, so I guess I'll dub him "Dr. Humornismatist." *The Numismatist* is the only periodical I get where I start at the back. I get my chuckles first, and then start reading the rest of the magazine from the front. I finish with a second dose of "Pearlman's People." Thanks for a great magazine!

David Webster, ANA 177710

users should consult the operation manuals for their computer systems.

Arnold Margolis, LM 777

Joseph Wharton: Opportunist or Wheeler-Dealer?

Thank you for R.W. Julian's analysis entitled "The 1864 Cent Goes Bronze" (December 1999, p. 1417). As Julian pointed out, Joseph Wharton was one of several Philadelphians who influenced Mint policies, or at least attempted to. Most numismatic writers see Wharton in the same light as the owners of the Western silver mines who arranged for the superabundant striking of useless silver dollars. Researching the Shield nickel for an article in *Coin World*, I found Walter Breen, Donald Taxay and other authors/researchers were in agreement on this. Then the light went on.

In our culture, we maintain a curious dichotomy in which self-interest is inferior to altruism. If you rob someone and spend the money on yourself, you are evil—and rightfully so. However, if you steal from someone and give the money to the poor, then you are moral, even if misguided.

Joseph Wharton had a direct interest in the use of nickel for coin-

age. He acted in his own interest. His motives and actions ultimately resulted in the nickel 3 cents, and Shield, Buffalo and Jefferson nickels. Of course, he profited. Why should he not? Edison and Einstein also profited from their insight and hard work. Wharton's gain was no less honorable.

Michael Marotta, ANA 162953

Collector in Search of ANA Medals

I enjoyed Barbara Gregory's article about annual ANA medals in the December 1999 issue ("ANA Medals and Convention Badges," p. 1424). I am an active collector of these items and was wondering if other collectors/dealers have such material, as I still am seeking several older items.

Mark Gereb, ANA 101078

Numismatist Reports Stolen Nickels

On December 7, 1999, more than 100 nickels, as well as an assortment of silver and gold world coins, were stolen from my car at the Miami International Airport. Among the pieces was a complete set of Buffalo nickels (which included the 1918/7-D overdate and the 1928 doubled die) and 42 duplicates, most in mint-state condition (with a total estimated value of \$9,427). Foreign gold included 15th- to 18th-century French hammered and milled coins, and two 1739-dated double guineas of George II.

The Buffalo nickels were housed in a brown Dansco album, while all the gold coins were in a leather, felt-lined presentation case. The remaining items were in two standard, red coin boxes. Anyone having information about these coins is encouraged to contact me.

Jacques Bagdasarian, ANA 114303
941/591-1021, Fax 941/591-0266

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NEW ISSUES

AUSTRIA:

Karl I Issue Concludes "Royal Tragedies" Series

The last emperor of Austria, Karl I, whose reign spanned the last two years of World War I (1917-18), is the subject of a new gold coin that concludes the Austrian Mint's series dedicated to "Royal Tragedies in the House of Habsburg." The obverse of the 1,000-schilling piece portrays Emperor Karl in field marshal's uniform.

The reverse symbolizes the end of 650 years of Habsburg rule with a glimpse of the imperial crypt under the Capuchin Church in Vienna, where most Habsburg rulers are buried. A weeping figure holds the crown of the Holy Roman Empire on the magnificent, baroque sarcophagus of Maria Theresa and her husband, Franz Stephen.

Tragically, Karl is buried in exile instead of among his forefathers. In March 1919, Karl (who refused to formally abdicate) and his family left Austria for Switzerland. They later moved to the island of Madeira,



Actual Size: 76mm

On a Year 2000 calendar medal struck by the Hoffman Mint, man reaches for the heavens, steps on the moon.

where the monarch died of pneumonia at the age of 34. He left his widow, Empress Zita, with eight young children to support and raise.

The .995 fine, proof gold coin measures 30mm in diameter and weighs 16g; mintage is limited to 50,000 pieces. It is available in a wooden case with a numbered certificate of authenticity for \$420. A collector's case that houses the six-coin series also can be purchased. For information about Austrian Mint issues, contact Euro Collections International, telephone 250/658-1762, fax 250/658-1455 or E-mail info@eurocollections.com.



Actual Size: 30mm

Emperor Karl I, who died in exile in 1922, is featured on the last of six coins in the Austrian Mint's "Royal Tragedies" series.

UNITED STATES: Hoffman Mint Offers 2000 Calendar Medal

A Y2K calendar medal illustrating the theme "Dreams That Are Strived for Can Be Achieved" is available from the Hoffman Mint. The obverse motif of the 76mm, bronze medal depicts a charioteer reaching toward the heavens. The reverse features a 2000 calendar, with a central image showing an astronaut setting foot on the moon.

Each serially numbered medal comes in a presentation box with a walnut display stand for \$39.95. A deluxe set, which includes two struck key rings, is priced at \$64.95. To order, contact the Hoffman Mint, telephone 800/227-5813, fax 831/649-3318. Other products are displayed on the firm's web site at www.hoffmanmint.com.

NETHERLANDS: 1999 Issues Continue Ducat Tradition

Despite the impending issuance of the euro, the Netherlands will continue to strike the ducat. The Dutch Mint Law specifically delineates two types of currencies for the Netherlands: money for use in everyday commerce (the guilder since the start of the 19th century) and trade coinage (in the form of gold and silver ducats, which have existed since 1586). Although the guilder soon will make way for the euro, the change will not effect the ducat, which always was issued to facilitate international trade and export.

Ducats hark back to the 16th and 17th centuries, when Dutch traders sailed from the Baltic to the East Indies and on to the New World, bringing riches and profits to Amster-

dam. Ducats were issued in three versions—a .983 fine gold ducat, measuring 21mm in diameter; a .983 fine gold double ducat, with a diameter of 26mm; and a .873 fine silver ducat, at 40mm. Today's ducats are nearly identical in design to their ancestors, but are struck only in proof and in very limited numbers. Although earlier ducats were struck by the hundreds of thousands, no more than 12,500 of each were made for 1999.

Prices of the 1999 issue are \$89.50 for the gold ducat, \$150 for the gold double ducat and \$47.50 for the silver ducat. Please add \$4.50 shipping and handling per order; New Jersey residents should add 6-percent sales tax. Contact the Dutch Mint's North American Representative, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, NJ 07014,



A gold 10,000 kronur celebrating 1,000 years of Christianity in Iceland is only the sixth commemorative coin issued by the republic.

telephone toll-free 800/421-1866, fax 973/471-1062, or E-mail mail@coin-currency.com.

ICELAND: Millennium Issue Marks Nation's Christianization

The Central Bank of Iceland has authorized the Royal Norwegian Mint

to produce a .900 fine gold proof coin commemorating the 1,000th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity to Iceland by King Olav Tryggvasson. Modeled by artist Thröstur Magnusson, the reverse of the 10,000-kronur coin depicts an old crosier found at Thingvellir, the world's first assembly site for a congress of the people. The obverse bears the Icelandic coat of arms. The coin is packaged in a wooden box along with a certificate of authenticity. Mintage of the reeded-edge coin is limited to 3,000 pieces.

Iceland's Christianity Millennium coin is available by mail from the Royal Norwegian Mint, Postboks 53, 3601 Kongsberg, Norway. Credit-card purchases can be made via the Internet at the Mint's web site (www.dkm.no). •

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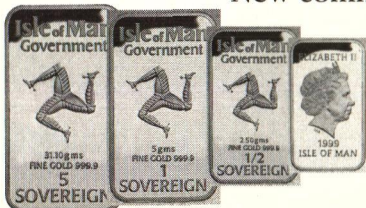
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Cherub Angel

The Gibraltar Government has issued for the 2nd year running a beautifully sculpted Cherub Angel coin. 100 years of Queen Mother 2000 sees the hundredth year of the Queen Mum. Gibraltar and Isle of Man will be celebrating with an issue of the life and times of the Queen Mother. Available in CuNi, Sterling Silver and Fine 999.9 Gold. This year the design features Joshua Reynold's 'Heads of Angels'. This coin is available in all fine 999.9 Gold sizes: 1oz, 1/2oz, 1/5oz, 1/10oz and 1/25oz as well as in Platinum. The smaller sizes make beautiful jewellery items.

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British Products Appeal to Discerning Collectors

The British Royal Mint announced that its sales of collector coins in 1999 met or exceeded projections. Sellouts included the 1999 gold sovereign, half sovereign and four-coin sovereign set; £1 and £2 silver pied-foret; Millennium medal and Millennium coin/bank note set; and gold proof Diana, Princess of Wales memorial coin.

Notes the Royal Mint's Director of Collector Coin Alan W. Wallace, "It seems there is little doubt that, in this time of proliferation of questionable coin issues, quality and meaningful commemoratives are still what the discerning collector of modern material is seeking. The long tradition and classic design of the sovereign, for instance, offer a solid base to any collection."

To learn more, visit the Mint's web site at www.royalmint.com, or write to British Royal Mint, Cheltenham, WY 82008-0031.

Dealer Acquires Early Example of New Dollar

Jared Burbank, a coin dealer in Pueblo, Colorado, has the distinction of being perhaps the first individual to acquire a specimen of the new, 2000-dated Sacagawea dollar—three months before its projected March release. He obtained the coin in mid December after receiving a telephone call from an employee of Brink's, Inc., a security transportation company that places coins from Federal Reserve Banks into rolls and

transports them to various banking institutions. The employee found the golden dollar in a Mint-sewn bag containing \$1,000 in Connecticut quarters. (Brink's employees reportedly are allowed to purchase error coins at face value.)

Burbank put the coin up for sale on eBay, a popular Internet auction site, where bidding reached \$1,136. When the United States Treasury Department learned of Burbank's acquisition, it instructed him to call off the sale and hold onto the piece until an investigation was completed. However, Burbank appears not to have violated federal law. The legislation authorizing the Sacagawea dollar does not state a specific date of issue, but rather stipulates the new coins are to be placed into circulation upon depletion of the government's supply of Susan B. Anthony dollars.

Omaha Museum Increases Numismatic Holdings

Approximately 5,000 ancient and United States coins, plus hundreds of numismatic books and catalogs, have found a temporary home at the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. According to Lawrence Lee, the Museum's associate curator of special collections, the material was relocated at the end of December from the University of Nebraska State Museum in Lincoln.

Known as the Morrill Hall Collection (after the college structure in which it was stored for decades), the material was assembled mainly by Reverend Ian Charles Gordon Campbell, the university's part-time curator of numismatics in the 1970s. The collection comprises roughly 3,500 ancient coins (primarily Byzantine bronzes); 1,000 world coins; a selec-

tion of papal coinage; colonial issues and early U.S. half and large cents; 140 Nebraska trade tokens; and William Jennings Bryan's collection of more than a dozen medals.

Officials at the university indicate that for now the collection's transfer to the Durham Western Heritage Museum is merely a loan, but the material eventually could become a permanent part of the Museum's cabinet. The Museum already boasts the 10,000-piece Byron Reed Collection of rare United States coins and patterns, historical medals, books and documents.

Record Price Paid for 1943 Bronze Cent

A 1943 bronze cent, one of only 17 confirmed examples, was purchased by an anonymous East Coast collector on December 22 for a reported \$112,500, the highest price paid for any off-metal wartime error coin or, for that matter, any Lincoln cent. Graded Mint State (MS)-61 RB, the Philadelphia Mint coin had been in the possession of a Southern California collector for more than 40 years.

Foundation Invites Classical Research

The J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation, a nonprofit, educational organization based in Ontario, Canada, has announced the donation of an additional \$10,000 to the John S. Wilkinson Classical and Medieval Numismatic Fund, established in 1994 with an initial endowment of \$10,000. The fund finances publishing projects, sponsors symposiums, and supports educational projects in the field of ancient and medieval history and numismatics. For more information, contact the Founda-

dation at 654 Hiawatha Blvd., Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3A5, Canada.

Software Serves Hobbyists and ANA

Cataloging your collection can be a lot of work, but a software development firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has a solution that could redefine how collectors inventory their holdings. Imagery Concepts, in cooperation with the American Numismatic Association, has developed a new, easy-to-use software program (based on its "Home-Organizer" program) that makes the job of cataloging collections a snap. Says ANA Membership and Marketing Director Rudy Bahr, "The program is an innovative tool that helps members maintain comprehensive records of their nu-

mismatic material. In the event of a burglary or natural disaster, it also is an excellent recovery mechanism, as every item is thoroughly imaged and described."

The program allows users to file E-mail and other correspondence with ease. Scanned images of coins and paper money, as well as information retrieved from web sites, can be stored in readily accessible "drawers."

By special arrangement, members of the American Numismatic Association can obtain Imagery Concepts' numismatic version of Home-Organizer for \$29.95. For every program purchased, the ANA receives \$12 toward member services and benefits.

To order Imagery Concepts' collection maintenance software, telephone toll-free 888/665-9513 or visit www.home-organizer.com.

Famed Central America Treasure Purchased

Tons of California Gold Rush-era coins and assayers' bars from the fatal 1857 voyage of the S.S. *Central America* finally have surfaced and will be made available for public viewing and sale. After approximately two years of complex negotiations, Dwight Manley, managing partner of California Gold Group in Newport Beach, California, has acquired the entire \$100 million-plus treasure recovered in the late 1980s by the Columbus-America Discovery Group of Columbus, Ohio.

A portion of the treasure, valued at \$10 million, will be exhibited at the Long Beach (California) Coin & Collectibles Expo (February 10-13) and at the ANA World's Fair of

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LM 2406

Money® in Philadelphia (August 9-13). The display will include the largest-known gold ingot—a 933-ounce brick nicknamed “Eureka!”—and will be housed in a 30-foot model of the legendary ship’s hull.

On its way to New York, the *Central America* was caught in a hurricane off the North Carolina coast on September 11, 1857. It sank the next day, taking more than 400 passengers and crew members and three tons of gold to the ocean bottom.

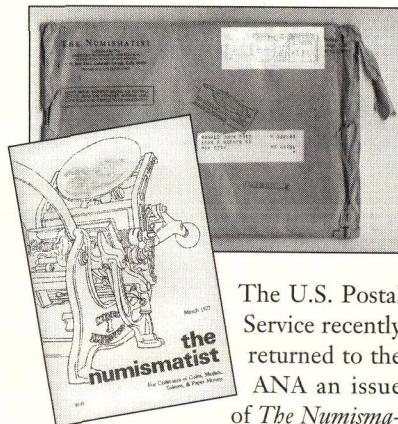
“The shipwreck was an unprecedented human tragedy for America,” says author and professional numismatist Q. David Bowers, who is writing a book about the ship and its gold cargo. “The loss of the gold stunned the New York financial community and compounded one of the 19th century’s greatest financial

disasters—the Panic of 1857.”

Manley intends to donate some items to the ANA Money Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York Historical Society and San Francisco Historical Society. A limited number of specimens also will be made available for purchase beginning in March. The first 525 coins offered will be 1857-S double eagles, ranging in price from \$2,500 to more than \$100,000, explains Manley. Additional material will be made available over the next two years as the items are examined and cataloged.

The *Central America* treasure will be sold exclusively by three numismatic dealerships: Blanchard and Company (888/524-2646), Bowers and Merena Galleries (800/458-4646), and David Hall’s North American Trading (800/359-4255).

Neither Snow, Nor Rain ... Nor Gloom of Night



The U.S. Postal Service recently returned to the ANA an issue of *The Numismatist* deemed undeliverable—almost 23 years after it was mailed to Ronald Putz of Bay City, Michigan. The ANA paid \$3.31 additional postage for the privilege of getting it back. •

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2. All your coins must be submitted in individual soft flips. However, **do not remove a coin from its certified holder** if you are submitting the coin under NGC's CrossOver, ReGrade, ReHolder, or Designation Review services.
3. Check the box indicating the Tier or Service desired. You may request only one Tier or Service option per NGC submission form. If you want to submit additional coins at a different Tier use a second submission form. For example, if you have five coins to submit under VarietyPlus and five coins under EarlyBird, use one submission form for each group of five, and ship both groups with their respective invoices together to the ANA.
4. In the "Ship To" box, **print clearly** the address where NGC should ship your coins. In "Ship Via," choose either FedEx (available only if you have a FedEx account, and charged to you) or US Postal Service Registered Mail. When you request that NGC return your coins using your FedEx account, your coins are insured only to your FedEx account's arranged insurance limits. Check to be sure your FedEx account is fully insured for the dollar amount value of the coins you want shipped by FedEx. NGC and the ANA are not responsible for coins shipped on your FedEx account that are underinsured.
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6. To find the Postage Fee add \$10 per package plus 25¢ a coin over 10 coins. (Example: On 15 coins, postage is \$11.25). For FedEx delivery, do not fill in the Postage Fee box, your account will be billed. To find the Service Fee, multiply the number of coins submitted on the form by the Tier price and/or Service price selected. If you are using VarietyPlus with an EarlyBird or higher grading tier, add \$5 per coin to the tier fee.
7. Add the Total Postage Fee to the Total Service Fee and write a check for the Total Amount Due payable to the *American Numismatic Association*. On the submission form include the check number then sign and date the form as indicated.
8. Pack your coins carefully, including the submission form and check for payment. If you send more than one submission form, please pack the appropriate

GRADING TIERS & SERVICE OPTIONS *(Turnaround times are best case estimates only and are calculated from the day NGC receives your coins.)*

TIERS <i>(Services in italic)</i>	TURNAROUND <i>estimate only</i>	REQUIREMENTS
Dispatch	24 Hours	All US/World coins.
Express	5 Working Days	US/World coins valued at \$10,000 or less.
GoldRush	5 Working Days	All dates valued \$1,000 or less for \$5-\$10-\$20 Liberty; \$10 Indian, \$20 Saint Gaudens. World Gold coins valued \$500 or less, all common dates. 5-coin minimum.
EarlyBird	12 Working Days	US/World coins valued at \$5,000 or less.
Economy	21 Working Days	Non-gold US/World coins & Gold World coins valued at \$300 or less. There is a five-coin minimum submission requirement for Economy grading tier service.
VarietyPlus	According to tier chosen. <i>Ex: VarietyPlus Economy is 21 Working Days</i>	US coins, value according to grading tier you select. NGC reviews coins for recognized varieties and certifies with applicable variety designation. For desired turnaround, or according to value, check VarietyPlus AND appropriate grading tier. Additional cost is \$5.00 above tier selected.
ReGrade	According to tier chosen. <i>Ex: ReGrade Economy is 21 Working Days</i>	If you disagree with a grade assigned by NGC, you may resubmit the coin for review. The coin must be intact in its holder. Value limits correspond to the grading tier you choose.
ReHolder	5 Working Days	If a holder is chipped or cracked, it can be submitted for placement in a new holder.
CrossOver	According to tier chosen. <i>Ex: CrossOver EarlyBird is 12 Working Days</i>	Coins certified by other grading services are reviewed for NGC certification at the same grade. All requirements apply for the grading tier you choose.
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SERVICE (check one only; applies to all coins on this form):

☐ VarietyPlus[†] (Tier cost+\$5) ☐ ReGrade (Tier Cost Only) ☐ CrossOver (Tier Cost Only)

☐ ReHolder (Postage only) ☐ Designation Review (\$12)

[†] For a faster turnaround time than Economy (21 working days) on VarietyPlus or in the case of variety coins valued above \$300 (see tier definitions under Guidelines on back) you must select VarietyPlus and also select Dispatch, Express or EarlyBird tier. **The cost will be \$5.00 above the higher tier you choose** (add the additional \$5/coin in the Grading Tier/Service Fee box to assure an accurately calculated total) and the turnaround time corresponds to the tier selected.

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2						☐	\$	
3						☐	\$	
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6						☐	\$	
7						☐	\$	
8						☐	\$	
9						☐	\$	
10						☐	\$	
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IMPORTANT: Use a second submission form if submitting more than 15 coins, or if you are requesting a second grading tier or service.

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Crime and Perseverance

With the recovery of two unique American coins stolen more than 30 years ago, Willis H. du Pont's amazing numismatic collection again is in the news.

by Edward C. Rochette
LM 557

**The Linderman specimen of
the fabulous 1804 dollar.**

Actual Size: 39.5mm

ANA ARCHIVES



ON AN OCTOBER evening in 1967, just two months after the American Numismatic Association's 76th Anniversary Convention in nearby Bal Harbour, Florida, five young hoodlums were driving through the posh Coconut Grove area of Miami. Chance alone brought them to Saint Gaudens Road. Neither coins, the recent coin show nor coin collecting were on their minds. Instead, they were intent on breaking into the home of a millionaire. Any millionaire would do. The group reasoned that if one were rich, one would keep cash at home—lots of it.

Why they thought the home at 3500 Saint Gaudens Road looked more promising than others nearby we will never know, but it was here they chose to stop, exit the car, check their guns and don ski masks. It was shortly after midnight. Upon forcibly entering the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis H. du Pont, they quickly rounded up the family and the servants still on duty. Family members were bound and threatened. The young hoodlums wanted to show they were tough and meant business.

Ransacking the house, they found du Pont's renowned coin collection in a concealed safe. The thieves took a number of suitcases from a storage closet. It was the only way they could carry the coins—more than 7,000 in all. In addition, the thieves' haul included approximately \$4,000 in cash, \$1,000 of which was in loose silver dollars, and approximately \$50,000 in jewelry.

HIS GOLD EAGLE collection was almost complete, from 1795 to 1933, and included the 1907 varieties with wire and rolled edges, with periods and without periods.

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A Half Million in United States Coinage

WILLIS DU PONT'S numismatic holdings consisted of an almost complete set of regular-issue United States coins, as well as silver and gold commemoratives and territorial gold. To appreciate the extent of his collection, one need only review the 1968 edition of R.S. Yeoman's *Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book"). Of the approximately 4,400 different coins listed in the book, all but 100 were represented in his collection. At the time of the robbery, du Pont estimated the value of this material at \$500,000.

Silver and base-metal U.S. coins ranged from half cents to Trade dollars. Included were two 1804 silver dollars—the Linderman specimen and the Cohen specimen. (Both since have been recovered, and the latter now resides in the ANA Money Museum.) Other dollar rarities were stolen as well: a 1795 ("two leaves") and a 1797 ("9 stars left, 7 stars right, small letters"), both in uncirculated condition; one of two known 1866 "no motto" Seated Liberty dollars; and an 1895 Morgan dollar in proof condition.

Willis du Pont's gold collection consisted of most issues listed in the Red Book, from dollars to double eagles. He had complete sets of the Grant Memorial, Lewis and Clark, Louisiana Purchase and McKinley commemorative dollars, as well as specimens of all the Panama-Pacific International Exposition coins (\$1, \$2½, and \$50 round and octagonal). His gold eagle collection was almost complete, from 1795 to 1933, and included the 1907 varieties with wire and rolled edges, with periods and without periods.

The millionaire's collection of private and territorial gold was equally impressive. His had complete sets of gold August Bechtler; Norris, Gregg & Norris; Templeton Reid; Moffat & Co. \$5 and \$10; and United States Assay Office pieces; and he lacked only four coins in the Christopher Bechtler series.

Like the Red Book, the du Pont collection did not overlook the miscellaneous coins and tokens of the English-American colonies. Among his pattern pieces was a 1787 ("punch on wing") Brasher doubloon.

Foreign Rarities

LIKE MANY TRUE collectors, du Pont also accumulated world coins. While some were common, most were scarce and rare. His collection of some 2,600 coins, valued at "about \$50,000," consisted of specimens from 138 different countries, cities and municipalities throughout the



The Cohen specimen of the 1804 dollar.

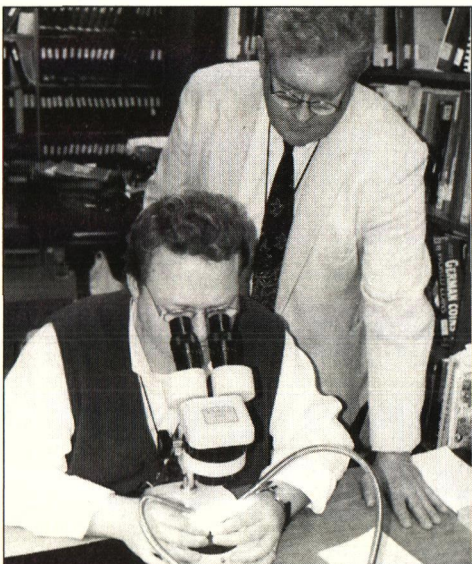
ANA MUSEUM



**Proof 1866 "no motto"
Seated Liberty quarter.**

ANA AUTHENTICATION BUREAU

ANA Authenticator Brian Siliman (seated) and ANA Museum Curator Robert Hoge verify the authenticity of the proof 1866 "no motto" Seated Liberty half dollar.



... WHEN THE THIEVES broke into the du Pont home and discovered the coin collection, at least one thought of keeping a coin or two for himself.

.....

world. The coins had been collected over the years during the course of travel by various members of the du Pont family and their friends.

At the time of the robbery, du Pont had about a third of the fabled Mikhailovich Collection in his home. Taken were 257 items, mainly gold and platinum rubles, and gold ducats, imperials and commemorative medals. Two of the coins were the only known specimens—namely the 1908 gold 10 rubles and the 1840 platinum 3 rubles. Another coin—a proof 1882 gold 3 rubles—was one of three known out of the six originally struck. At the time, du Pont valued this collection in excess of \$1 million.

Less publicized, and mostly overlooked by the press, was a collection of some 95 Chinese coins, a gift to Willis du Pont's father, Lammot, from a relative who had spent an extended period of time in China. The collection consisted of brass, copper and silver commemorative and regular-issue coins. Because of their conversational interest, du Pont kept the collection in a separate, five-drawer cabinet on display in his den. The thieves did not miss it.

A Painful Recovery Process

FOR THE PAST 32 years, publicity regarding the theft of the du Pont collection has waxed and waned. From time to time, pieces are recovered, thanks in great part to the tireless efforts of Harold Gray, du Pont's personal attorney. Gray's quest has taken him all over the United States—Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, New York, New Orleans and even Colorado Springs—and to Switzerland, Israel and Uruguay. The story is far from over, but a few chapters can be told.

Most of the stolen coins likely were channeled through underworld connections. However, when the thieves broke into the du Pont home and discovered the coin collection, at least one thought of keeping a coin or two for himself. The Brasher doubloon caught his fancy. He palmed it and affixed it to his leg with adhesive tape (not a suggested means of safekeeping). A later argument with his young wife, the daughter of a local tough guy, was settled with his fists. Retaliation was swift. The hoodlum soon found himself in a hospital emergency room. There the coin was discovered and returned to du Pont by Miami police.

Some coins were "ransomed." Others were recovered over

the ensuing years. A big break came on July 20, 1981, when a man appeared at ANA headquarters with three silver dollars he claimed to have found in his late father's desk drawer. Two were common-date, well-worn Morgans; the third was quickly recognized by Tom DeLorey, then an ANA authenticator, as the 1804 Linderman dollar stolen from the du Ponts almost 14 years earlier. DeLorey called me on the intercom. "We have du Pont's 1804 dollar in the library. I am sure of it."

The supposed heir to the piece was informed that a number of tests were necessary to confirm its authenticity, and he was asked to leave the coin for several days. He agreed, and Harold Gray immediately was notified. When the man returned at the appointed time to retrieve the coin, he was apprehended by the FBI in my office. He was identified as a Las Vegas-based runner for a Mafia family. (The coin subsequently was given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it currently is on display.)

Twelve years passed before another major break occurred. Word was received that a coin dealer operating in Israel was transporting two rare coins to Zurich, Switzerland. Swiss Criminal Police intercepted him and confiscated two coins that I later identified as the Cohen specimen of the 1804 dollar and the unique Norris, Gregg and Norris \$5 Stockton territorial gold piece, both from du Pont's collection.

Then, late last year, two additional du Pont rarities surfaced. The unique proof 1866 "no motto" Seated Liberty quarter and its companion half dollar were recovered in the Los Angeles area. Each reportedly was found in a small lot of miscellaneous silver coins—the quarter by Los Angeles Coin Company, and the half by Superior Stamp and Coin Company. The pieces subsequently were sent to the ANA Authentication Bureau, which determined both to be genuine and part of Willis H. du Pont's stolen collection.

Even though nearly a third of a century has passed since the robbery, the search for the remaining coins continues. Clues turn up and leads are followed. Each recovery brings the case one step closer to being solved. One day, in the pages of *The Numismatist*, those involved will be fully revealed. •

Edward C. Rochette was ANA executive vice president when the Linderman specimen of the 1804 dollar was recovered in 1981, and today serves as executive director. A monthly columnist for THE NUMISMATIST, he has written several books, including THE ROMANCE OF COIN COLLECTING and MAKING MONEY: ROGUES AND RASCALS WHO MADE THEIR OWN.



Harold Gray (right), Willis H. du Pont's personal attorney, discusses the recent recovery of the 1866 proof "no motto" quarter and half dollar with ANA Executive Director Ed Rochette.



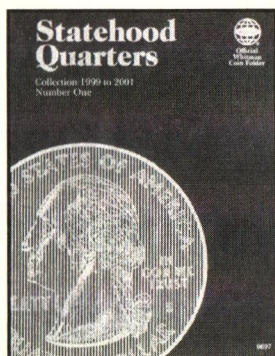
Proof 1866 "no motto" Seated Liberty half dollar.

ANA AUTHENTICATION BUREAU

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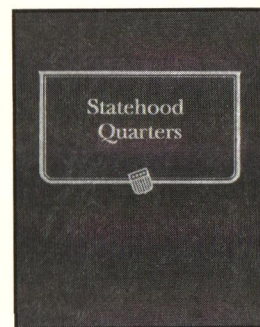
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St. Martin's Press

An Artist's Brush with Numismatics

During the turbulent times of the Civil War, freelance artist Winslow Homer captured a disquieting but realistic moment in time with the Army of the Potomac.

ONE OF THE most exhilarating aspects of being a numismatist is discovering the inherent intertwining of the hobby with other disciplines. The pursuit of numismatic knowledge is not always limited to the specimens themselves, and often leads to an investigation of other intriguing facts and related sources. This cross-pollination frequently is surprising and exciting. Collectors become students of the world—examining numismatic pieces from multi-faceted perspectives, analyzing their social, economic, historical and artistic influences. I find my own collector radar on alert at all times. Wherever I am, whatever I am doing, I always am looking for more numismatic information and inspiration.

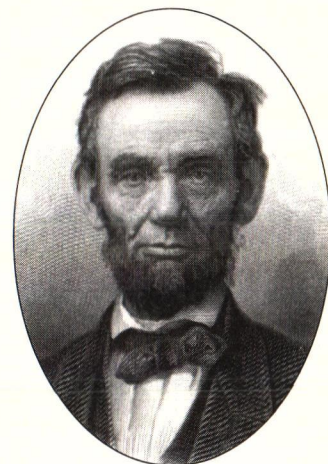
Prelude to a Purchase

MY 7-YEAR-OLD daughter and I were strolling through a local art gallery last summer, when we came across a large collection of centerfold illustrations from 1860s issues of *Harper's Weekly*. We gazed in admiration as we thumbed through this wonderful art. Suddenly we spotted one picture that really piqued our interest. Titled by the artist "A Descent on the Sutler" and captioned "Pay-Day in the Army of the Potomac," it was from the February 28, 1863, issue.

We found this print captivating for several reasons. (I probably was a bit more excited, but my daughter feigned fascination extremely well.) First, it depicted a Civil War scene, which quenched my thirst from a historical perspective. Second, it highlighted United States currency, which satisfied my numismatic appetite. Finally, it was drawn by one of America's greatest artistic talents—Winslow Homer.

After a few more moments of appreciative reflection, we went on our way. My enthusiasm for the piece must have been quite evident, because

by Thomas F.X. O'Mara
LM 4718



President Abraham Lincoln faced serious difficulties in 1863, not the least of which was low morale on the home front. Artist Winslow Homer caught but one aspect of the problem in his "Pay-Day" illustration.

YOUNG HOMER DID not appreciate the conservative art work in vogue, believing it was constrictive and not “true” to the subject matter.

.....

a month later my family presented me with the framed *Harper's Weekly* illustration for my birthday. (I can only imagine my daughter trying to explain our “discovery” to her mother. Families of avid numismatists apparently get used to dealing with such idiosyncrasy—at least mine has.) As the proud owner, I was determined to discover additional information about my new acquisition.

Winslow Homer's illustration entitled “A Descent on the Sutler” appeared in the February 28, 1863, issue of *Harper's Weekly* and portrayed President Lincoln as a purveyor of goods and questionable ethics.

Portrait of the Artist

WINSLOW HOMER WAS born on February 24, 1836, in Boston, Massachusetts. He took a liking to art at an early age and spent hours watching his mother paint with watercolors and accompanying her to Boston art galleries. Young Homer did not appreciate the conservative art work



in vogue, believing it was constrictive and not “true” to the subject matter. Anticipating a trend developing in American art in the mid 1800s (the Native School and the Hudson River School), Homer was more comfortable with the objectivity and naturalism of scenes from everyday life.

In 1855 *Harper's Weekly* was founded in New York and published some of Homer's sketches. The young illustrator moved to New York, assimilating nicely into the new, artistic movement. When the Civil War broke out, Homer turned down *Harper's* offer to be a full-time correspondent, insisting on freelancing. From late 1861 through early 1863, he marched with the Army of the Potomac, witnessing firsthand the Peninsular Campaign under General George McClellan's leadership. Although war and its omnipresent sense of urgency may not provide the easiest or most harmonious subject matter, Homer maintained his powerful and direct style, while conveying scenes of military life that were highly acclaimed by the public.

After the war, Homer began a long and distinguished career as a painter. He continued to express his basic philosophy: “When you paint, try to put down exactly what you see. Whatever else you have to offer will come out anyway.” His paintings, packed with drama and splendid color, were quite popular.

In the early 1870s, Homer switched from oils to watercolors, believing the latter allowed him to paint more realistically. His artistic development coincided with the beginning of the American Watercolor Movement. Prior to this time, “aquarellists” (painters who specialized in the watercolor medium) were not taken seriously as artists, as watercolors were used by “real” artists solely for preliminary work. An 1873 *New York Times* review of a watercolor exhibit summed up the prevailing opinions of the day:

Many persons imagine that a water-color is nothing more or less than a sort of cheap oil-painting; that it can be done in about a quarter of the time it takes to execute a work in oil; that it will soon fade; that it makes “no show whatever” when hung besides oils and that, consequently, it ought to be sold at about half the price of a work in that medium.

The critics proved false oracles, and art patrons both here and abroad began to embrace this new “American” form of expression.



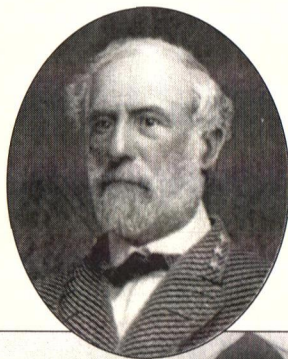
After the Civil War, Homer began a distinguished career as a painter. All his works display a distinctive realism and directness. However, it is his dramatic watercolors that have earned him a unique and revered place in the history of American art.

BETTMANN/CORBIS

IN 1861 AND early 1862, the Union suffered from a real lack of military leadership made worse by injurious indecision and procrastination.

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On October 1, 1862, Lincoln met with McClellan on the battlefield (bottom) and urged him to attack the Confederate Army, stopping General Lee (below) once and for all. Again General McClellan failed.



At last, American art had an imprint of its own, and many of the great watercolorists began to garner popular acclaim. Besides Winslow Homer, there were John Singer Sargent, Louis Comfort Tiffany, James McNeill Whistler and, much later, Georgia O'Keeffe, to name a few. Students of bank-note art may recognize the well-respected James David Smillie, who founded the New York Etching Society and the American Water Color Society. However, one of the best known then—and now—was the young, Civil War freelance artist, Winslow Homer.

Historical Background

AT THE TIME Homer created the "Pay-Day" illustration in early 1863, President Abraham Lincoln was facing serious difficulties. Although Union military forces had successes in the early years of the Civil War, especially out West, a successful strategy for the Eastern campaign took longer to develop. Very little good news buoyed the Northern cause. In 1861 and early 1862, the Union suffered from a real lack of military leadership made worse by injurious indecision and procrastination. In late 1861, President Lincoln placed General George McClellan in charge of the Army of the Potomac in the East. It was an unfortunate choice.

After McClellan's botched Peninsular Campaign (a poorly timed and terribly executed alternative plan devised by the general), the Army of the Potomac was under increased pressure to perform. Finally, with the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, McClellan's Army chalked up what might be described as a strong "draw." The potential to win the battle, destroy Lee's Army and end the war were all within McClellan's grasp, but again he failed to execute the plans successfully.

On September 22, 1862, Lincoln turned bloody Antietam into positive Union propaganda by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. On October 1, he met with General McClellan on the battlefield and personally urged him to attack General Lee's Army. Again the general moved too cautiously, and again his efforts were late and ineffective.

In the winter of 1862, things went from bad to worse. Lincoln told a visitor, "If there is a worse place than

IN THE WINTER of 1862, things went from bad to worse. Lincoln told a visitor, "If there is a worse place than hell, I am in it."

.....

hell, I am in it." He had lost much of his political support in the autumn congressional elections. Many Republicans were upset with him for sticking with McClellan so long; without their wholehearted support, the Democrats gained seats. Even the delegation from Lincoln's home state of Illinois went Democratic. When asked for his reaction to the news, Lincoln said he "felt like the boy who stubbed his toe . . . he was too big to cry, and it hurt too much to laugh."

General Ambrose Burnside was given command of the Army of the Potomac, but brought only more disappointment. The terrible whipping at Fredericksburg led to further erosion of Northern support. *Harper's Weekly* summarized commonly shared sentiments:

The people of the United States have borne, silently and grimly, imbecility, treachery, failure, privation, loss of friends and means, almost every suffering which can affect a brave people. But they cannot be expected to suffer that such massacres as this at Fredericksburg shall be repeated.

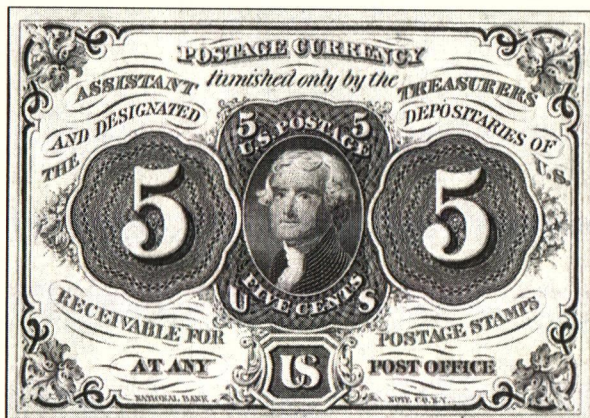
To say things were bleak was an understatement, and Lincoln's ability to lead came into question daily. Northern support and morale reached a new low, and the press sought to spotlight alleged incompetence and corruption in both the military and civilian sectors.

Homer's Interpretation

HOMER'S *HARPER'S WEEKLY* illustration parodies the situation confronting President Lincoln in February 1863. The army was under intense (and somewhat skeptical) public scrutiny. It is no wonder that in the sketch we find President Lincoln depicted as a racketeering "sutler" (a private purveyor of provisions for the military) among an undisciplined and riotous Army of the Potomac. The troops had not been paid in six months, and there was a

Winslow Homer spent much of 1862 as a correspondent marching with the Army of the Potomac (pictured here in winter camp) and sketching scenes of everyday military life for *Harper's Weekly*. This photograph was taken about the same time the artist created the "Pay-Day" illustration.





Not Actual Size

A severe shortage of circulating coinage during the Civil War necessitated the use of postage currency as an emergency measure.

shortage of food at their winter camp near Falmouth, Virginia. One can only imagine the scenes Homer witnessed as he put pen to paper to capture this moment in time.

The illustration seems to send an obvious message. I believe the artist was highlighting the discrepancy between reality and the Northern perception of the war effort. The central scene at the top depicts an orderly distribution of pay to the soldiers in camp. On either side are smaller vignettes depicting how a good soldier behaves once he has been paid. On the left, a group writes letters and sends money home; on the right, loved ones receive the longed-for letters and yearn for their brave, patriotic soldiers who are far away at the front. These three scenes depict what most Americans *assumed* was going on in the Army.

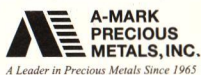
The artist comes closer to reality in the scene below. Here we find the true, sad state of affairs. Abraham Lincoln, as the sutler, runs a well-stocked, albeit highly priced, store. There are pickled oysters, cheese, condensed milk, eggs, fruit and many barrels of libations (one clearly marked "brandy"), none of which would be considered normal military fare. The raucous soldiers are quite unruly and apparently have descended upon the sutler in a desperate attempt to spend all their pay on immediate gratification. There are many interesting characters in this scene, but the disquieting depiction of the drummer boy clamoring for a drink is particularly intriguing—and deftly makes a point. The folks back home had heard things were bad, but probably not this bad.

Numismatic Connections

AN EXCITING DISCOVERY for numismatists in Homer's "Pay-Day" piece is the artistic use of paper currency and coinage to reinforce the theme. The three "coins" across the top of the picture are merely frames for the dramatic counterpoint and, thus, lack precise numismatic detail. However, the distinctive stars around the edge provide a more concrete

continued on page 209

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American Coins in Slovakia

A collector explores and explains the availability of early 20th-century United States and Canadian coins in this Central European country.

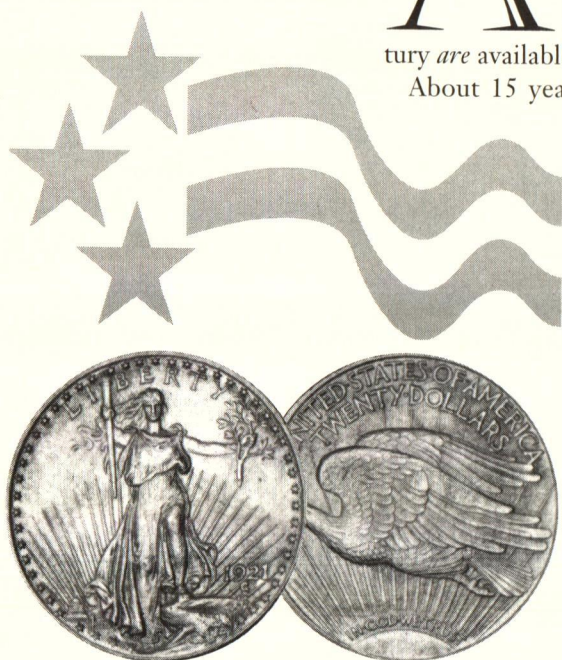
by Milan Skodny
LM 2184

AS A SLOVAK native and a long-time collector of United States and Canadian coins, I have found that, in general, modern American coins are not a common sight in coin dealers' stock in shops or at shows in Slovakia. Surprisingly, however, American coins from the early 20th century are available in my country—even in high grades.

About 15 years ago, for example, a friend of mine acquired a 1921 United States double eagle (\$20) in About Uncirculated (AU) condition. A local antique shop sold the coin to him for the price of the bullion it contained, about \$400 at that time. He and I carefully examined the coin, and it appeared to be genuine. And only recently, I purchased a 1921 dime in Extremely Fine (EF) for \$22. Of course, finds like these are rare and far between.

My curiosity about American coins aroused, I looked for an explanation of why such coins should be available here, of all places. In my experience, the dates most frequently found range from 1915 to 1921, and the series most commonly encountered are Mercury dimes and Standing Liberty quarters. Early Lincoln cents are not so easily located, although about a year ago, I acquired two 1909 VDB cents for a dollar. More often, I find Indian Head cents, and over the years have formed a nice collection of these pieces (but so far, no 1877).

The incidence of Canadian coins in Slovakia appears to be similar to that of U.S. issues. The coins I



Some years ago, a friend of mine acquired an About Uncirculated 1921 United States double eagle for its bullion value.

PARTICULARLY PREVALENT ARE Mercuries and Standing Liberties struck in 1918-20 . . . Walking Liberty half dollars follow the pattern as well . . .

.....

assembled over 30 years of collecting support this distribution. To illustrate this point, the accompanying table shows a sample of United States and Canadian denominations and grades represented in my personal collection. (Note the strong concentration of high-grade coins dated around 1920.)

Early Lincoln cents on the Slovak market are mostly low-grade pieces. Buffalo nickels and Mercury dimes follow the same pattern: coins from 1915 to 1921 are readily available, coins dated after 1923 are seldom encountered. Particularly prevalent are Mercuries and Standing Liberties struck in 1918-20; the latter probably are the most common U.S. coins in Slovakia (Kennedy halves and the like excepted). Walking Liberty half dollars follow the pattern as well, most dated from 1917 to 1921. United States coins from those years are available at decent, sometimes rock-bottom prices.

Why the concentration of U.S. coins in Slovakia, especially those dated from 1915 to 1921? Why are United States coins so common, rather than those from other countries?

The distribution puzzled me for some time, until I realized that shortly after the First World War ended, countless thousands of Slovak emigrants, mostly men, returned from the United States to their families in Slovakia, carrying in their pockets American coins—mostly dimes and quarters, and not as many cents, nickels and half dollars. (The same holds true for Canadian coins.)

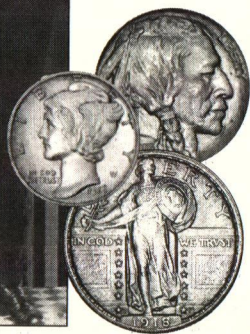
Pursuing this lead further, I found that the incidence of French, Belgian and Argentinian coins is similar, though not so obvious. The aforementioned countries were destinations for waves of emigrants leaving Slovakia before World War I. Prior to the war, almost a million Slovaks fled poverty and oppression in the former Austro-Hungarian empire. (Many of them erroneously were described as Hungarians.) In





ONE THING STILL baffles me, though, and keeps popping up in my mind. Who was the man who carried . . . that elusive, shiny, gold 1921 U.S. double eagle . . . ?

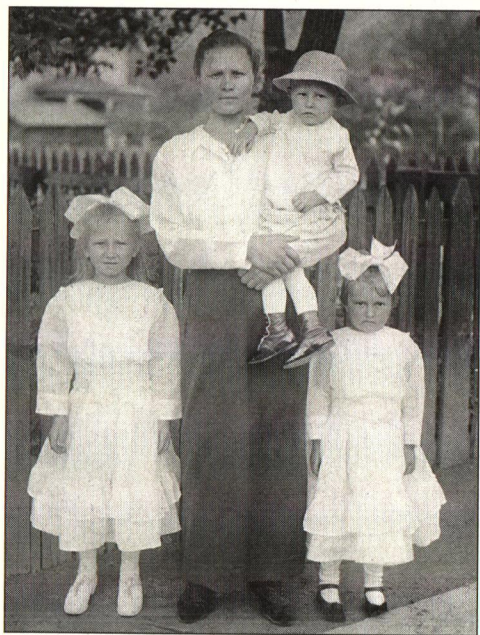
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Grades Represented in a Sample of Early 20th-Century United States and Canadian Coins Found in Slovakia

Date	UNITED STATES			CANADA	
	Buffalo Nickel	Mercury Dime	Standing Liberty Quarter	Dime	Quarter
1915	F	—	—	VF	VF
1916	VF	EF	—	VF	EF
1917	F	VF	VF	EF	VF
1918	EF	EF	EF	EF	AU
1919	AU	EF	AU	AU	EF
1920	EF	AU	AU	EF	AU
1921	AU	EF	AU	AU	AU

F = Fine VF = Very Fine EF = Extremely Fine AU = About Uncirculated



Almost a million Slovaks emigrated to the United States and Canada in the years preceding World War I. When countless thousands returned home after the hostilities ended, they carried in their pockets American coins, notably dimes and quarters.

MARILYN REBACK

the United States, they settled mostly in industrial towns in the East and Midwest, working in the sweatshops of New York, the coal fields of Pennsylvania, and farms in Texas and as far away as Montana.

I realize the limited validity of my observations. To get the full picture, it would be necessary to take into account a number of variables, such as mintages and mintmarks, and the distribution of Slovaks in different states.

One thing still baffles me, though, and keeps popping up in my mind. Who was the man who carried in his vest pocket that elusive, shiny, gold 1921 U.S. double eagle that made its way to Slovakia?

An electrical engineer by profession, Milan Skodny was born in Slovakia and is a long-time collector of United States and Canadian coins. A member of his country's numismatic society, he also serves as the ANA Representative Program's country ambassador to Slovakia and the Czech Republic.



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"Every day at least one customer asks my opinion of the grading services. As you know, I am brutally up-front about everything life throws at us. In short, I rate the grading services on an "A to F scale". I give NGC a Rainbow-toned A!

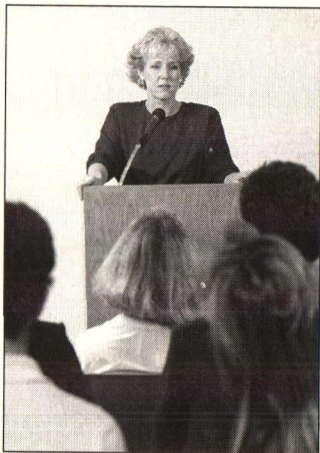
"I consider NGC to be the most accountable grading firm. You stand behind your product, you freely and publicly admit mistakes and you deal with issues that others shun. Simply stated, NGC represents the industry's leading grading service. Just keep an open mind and maintain your vision."

-Andrew Kimmel
Paragon Numismatics

Reviving Your Coin Club

Is your coin club suffering from the “blahs”? The author offers ideas for rejuvenating meetings and resuscitating the organization.

by B. Michael Thorne
ANA 67880



The best club meetings often include an educational presentation. Club members should be able and willing to talk about such topics as “My Favorite Coin.”

MANY YEARS AGO, I was a member of a coin club that met in a neighboring town. Once a month, I would make the 50-mile round trip to attend the two- to three-hour meeting. The meetings were all the same, and went something like this:

The president would call the meeting to order and ask if anybody had any business to bring up. No one ever did. Then he would ask if the vice president had anything to say. Of course, he never did. With about five minutes gone, the president would get to the meeting’s sole purpose—the auction.

Dozens of lots were laid out on a long, cloth runner across several folding tables, and each lot would be offered to the highest bidder. However, owners were allowed to protect their lots from going for low (and often reasonable) bids, which meant that most actually were sold back to their owners. There was little penalty for doing this, since the fee per lot was only a dime.

In addition, most of the lots consisted of coins that had appeared at many previous auctions, coins that often were so common or in such terrible condition that no one would have wanted them—at any price. But that didn’t prevent their owners from trying their luck once again. After all, there might be some new people at the auction who were naive enough to be ripped off.

Does this sound like a dreadful meeting? Does it remind you of your local club’s gatherings? If so, your club may be in as much trouble as this one was. I have seen no advertising for it in several years, so I assume it has folded. Further evidence for its demise is that the twice-yearly coin shows it sponsored no longer are held.

The main problem with this club was that it was initiated by and

YOU MUST CONVINCE the “powers that be” that a better goal for the club is education, with a secondary focus on camaraderie.

.....

oriented toward dealers. Meetings provided a way for the dealers/organizers to clean out their junk boxes. Collectors were there only as potential customers.

Change the Orientation

WHAT'S THE PRESCRIPTION for a club that is going nowhere but downhill? In my opinion, the solution lies in changing the group's orientation. You must convince the “powers that be” that a better goal for the club is education, with a secondary focus on camaraderie. If it proves impossible to deflect the club from its current direction, my advice is to start another group organized around the new mission.

First and foremost, an auction shouldn't be the focus of each meeting. Don't get me wrong. Auctions are okay, and you might want to have a brief one—with limited lots—at every other meeting. However, if you're going to have auctions, it's a good idea to establish some ground rules to force sellers to actually sell their material.

One approach would be to require a minimum bid and then not allow the owner to bid on his lot. Alternatively, you might have both a seller's fee and a buyer's fee, which should be relatively nominal (since this is a club auction, after all). Still, if a seller has to pay to put his coin in the auction and pay again if he buys it back, he might think twice before placing that winning (but losing) bid.

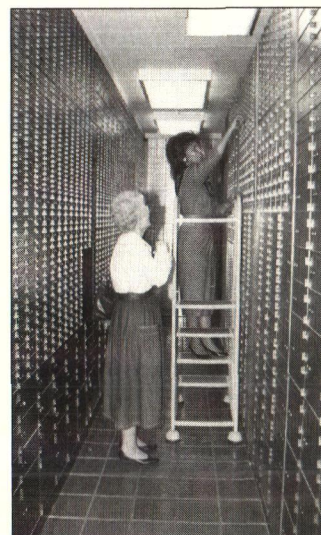
Schedule Educational Programs

IF AN AUCTION is not the main activity at each meeting, what is? In keeping with the club's new educational bent, at least every other meeting should include a presentation. Here are some possibilities that don't require specialized knowledge and should have broad enough appeal that coin collectors of every level of expertise will find them interesting.

Ask for a volunteer or, if no one steps forward, assign someone the topic “My Favorite Coin.” Everyone has such a piece and should be able to tell where he got it, how much he paid for it, what it was worth at the time it was obtained, what it's worth now, who designed the series, why it's his favorite coin, and so forth.

Here's another topic that should elicit a great deal of discussion: the best/worst mail-order experience. This subject could lead to a variety of discussions, such as how to guard against bad transactions or how to spot good/bad dealers from the wording in their ads.

Another possible topic for group discussion is “My Best Coin Find.”



Discussions of interest to all members might center around the proper materials and locations for storing and securing collections.

IF YOU'RE FRESH out of ideas for program topics, the American Numismatic Association has slide programs and videos available for loan.

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For the older collectors, this might be a coin found back in the days when "good stuff" still could be picked from circulation. For both young and old collectors, the best find might be an unattributed but valuable coin that was discovered in a dealer's case at a coin show. Whatever the situation, this topic should stimulate discussion, because everyone has had a similar experience.

Of course, there are many other topics of potential interest to any coin collector. For example, how best to store coins, which might include discussions of good and bad albums, good and bad holders, to clean or not to clean, and whether to keep collections in lock boxes at the bank.

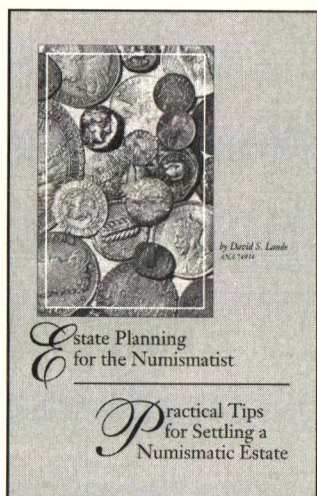
What about grading? Does everyone in your coin club know everything there is about the subject? If not, you might ask members who have expertise in particular series to give presentations on the grading nuances in their specialties. Consider buying copies of the ANA's correspondence course or video on grading.

Have the members of your club thought about preparing their heirs for receiving their collections? (Like it or not, we are merely custodians of our collections, and all of us should make sure that our potential heirs know what we have, what it's worth, the best way to dispose of it, and so forth.) A coin club meeting is a good place for a realistic discussion that, ideally, would include the intended heirs. In other words, it would be desirable to have spouses and older children attend the meeting and take part in the discussion. The American Numismatic Association's recent brochure, "Estate Planning for the Numismatist" and "Practical Tips for Settling a Numismatic Estate," is a good accompaniment.

Is there someone in your community, say a financial planner, who would be willing to speak on collectibles as part of investment planning? What about a discussion of the influence of bullion values on coin prices? This topic might also include information on what triggers increasing and decreasing bullion prices. Will we ever again see silver at \$10 an ounce, or is \$2 more likely? Surely, most of your club's members would find an intelligent discussion of this topic worthwhile. If you're fresh out of ideas for program topics, the American Numismatic Association has slide programs and videos available for loan.

Reach Out to Youth

ALTHOUGH I THINK the monthly or bimonthly program is the most important feature of a successful coin club, there are a number of other things your club can do to make it a better value for its members. At



The ANA's "Estate Planning for the Numismatist" and "Practical Tips for Settling a Numismatic Estate" can augment a meeting that includes club members, their spouses and older children.

ONE SUCH PROJECT is the purchasing of supplies in volume to get truly wholesale prices. These supplies then could be sold to members at cost.

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your next meeting, look at all the members. Do most of them have grey hair (assuming they have any hair left at all)?

If this is the case, you're seeing a problem that affects the hobby nationwide: an aging collector base. Coin collecting is not attracting the young people it needs to sustain itself as a viable entity.

The reasons for this failure are all too obvious. The youth of today who have the potential to become collectors are attracted by more exciting collectibles (in their opinions, at least), such as sports cards, Pokémon cards, and the like.

Perhaps your coin club could have a "Juniors Night" three or four times a year. At these meetings, the programs could be given by and for young collectors. They might even cover collectibles other than coins. (Perish the thought!)

A special auction night might feature relatively inexpensive items, with an upper limit of no more than \$10. By focusing on younger collectors and trying to make meetings relevant to their experience, you might begin to see a reversal of the greying trend.

Plan Group Projects

HAS ANYONE IN your club thought of projects that would take advantage of the buying power of a large number of members? One such project is the purchasing of supplies in volume to get truly wholesale prices. These supplies then could be sold to members at cost.

For example, when the annual edition of *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book") is released, it is possible to buy individual copies from dealers advertising in hobby periodicals for less than the list price. However, bigger savings are realized by anyone buying a dozen copies at a time. If 20 of your members want a new Red Book, consider buying two dozen for the club, selling 20 to these members and then using the other four copies as door prizes for visitors.

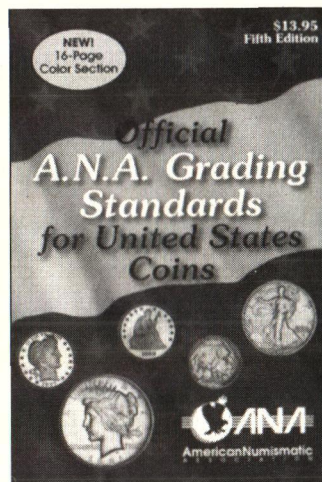
Focus on Recruiting

REMEMBER, VISITORS AND invited guests are potential new members. Try to attract visitors through advertisements or announcements in your local paper, or flyers in banks, libraries and grocery stores. Guest speakers likewise are prospects for recruiting. Have a guest or visitor sign-in book or card, and follow up on these names and addresses by sending these prospects announcements of future meetings.

continued on page 235



Greet visitors and invited guests at the door. Nametags for visitors and members help everyone associate names with faces.



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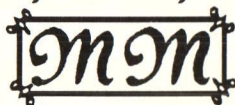
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A Century of Numismatics—1901-2000

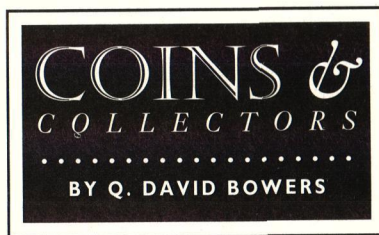
THE JANUARY 1990 issue of *The Numismatist* told of ANA President Kenneth L. Hallenbeck visiting Disneyland, where on behalf of the Association he received “an uncut sheet of 18 new \$10 Disney notes in a nice frame.” Perhaps this is a good way to begin this month’s column and conclude my overview of 20th-century American numismatics, as Mickey Mouse and Disneyland are the epitome of fun, and coin collecting is fun, too. Serious, yes. Scientific, yes. But the bottom line is fun—the enjoyment of what has been called the world’s greatest hobby.

One reason I have been a numismatist since the early 1950s is that I have found the hobby—and rare-coin business—to be an ever-changing panorama, a never-ending parade of interesting people, coins, places and things. To me, numismatics has been a way of life. I like coins; I like coin people; I like coin events. Chances are, you do, too.

The Information Age

The 1990s was a decade of great evolution, none greater than in the area of information. Ten years ago, a computer was something found in an office, factory or bank. Personal computers were just becoming popular. A laser printer that could turn out a couple of pages each minute was apt to cost a couple thousand dollars. Today we have notebook computers, PalmPilots™ and CD-ROM players in our computers and cars. If lost in the north woods, we can use a handy cellular telephone to give rescuers our longitude and latitude to within a few yards by GPS.

We can run, but we cannot hide. Just about every aspect of one’s life—from deep, personal secrets to



last month’s credit-card purchases—can be accessed by the persistent. And, I didn’t even mention the Internet and E-mail—both strange and largely unknown in 1990, but a fact of everyday life in 2000. The information age is upon us.

Probably, we have too much information. The other day, I did some poking around, and I found more than 50 places—books, market guides in magazines, Internet sites, newsletters, etc.—where one can learn the current price of a given Morgan dollar. However, I think one, two or three places is enough.

Similarly, there are dozens of English-language dictionaries in print, but, somehow, I am happy with just three—the *American Heritage Dictionary*, for quick reference; *Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary*, installed on the hard drive of my notebook computer; and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, on a separate CD drive attached to the computer in my office.

The auction firm of Christie’s recently withdrew from the field of on-line cooperative offerings with antique dealers, citing as a reason that more than 20,000 Internet ad-

resses already had “art” as part of their title! Sometimes I think there are more Internet sales and auction sites for art and antiques than there are buyers!

Simplify

It is nice to have 20,000-plus auction sites or 50-odd places to learn the value of an 1884-CC Morgan dollar, or to be able to directly dial 100 million telephone numbers around the world. However, the information explosion has brought with it a lot of stress. Uncertainty prevails.

Decades ago, the “all-American job” consisted of gaining a position with IBM, General Motors or the Caterpillar Company, working hard and retiring 45 years later. Today, from what I read in the financial papers, job security is largely a thing of the past. I would not be surprised to learn that more than 50 percent of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies



In 1990 ANA President Ken Hallenbeck participated in the launch of “Disney Dollars,” demonstrating how much fun the hobby can be.

in 1990 are not in the same position today. Similarly, I suspect that of the 100 "hottest" stocks in the market in 1990, only a few would make the same list for 2000.

It is an era of numbers, information and impersonality. Many follow the advice given over a century ago by Henry David Thoreau, simplifying their lives. Perhaps that is done by river rafting without a cellular telephone, or renting a room in a resort hotel in Orlando or Las Vegas.

Numismatics offers an alternative. Collecting coins, tokens, medals and paper money—and even out-of-print books—offers a stay-at-home alternative. In the comfort and convenience of your favorite armchair, you can enjoy your own personal museum of Americana—copper cents dating to the 1820s, Morgan silver

dollars from the wild and woolly West of 1880s Nevada, or even the brand-new 50 State Quarters.TM (I can hardly wait to see the New Hampshire quarter dollar this year!)

All the information I mentioned above—dictionaries, price lists, Internet sites and more—can be useful accessories to collecting. Just pick and choose the ones you want and ignore the others.

The hobby of numismatics has more to offer than ever before—a respite from the everyday world, a refuge, a one-on-one relationship with objects that are enjoyable to study and own. Your collection will, in time, reflect your personality and be a ready repository of coins, paper money and other objects you find to be especially interesting—a cabinet of curiosities ever willing to provide

enjoyment just for the looking.

Coins provide a tangible link to yesteryear—an era that, in retrospect, may seem serene and carefree, but probably wasn't. (A few years ago, Otto Bettmann, who formed the *Bettmann Archive*, wrote a little book, *The Good Old Days—They Were Terrible!*) Now that the 1990s—reality just a month or two ago—are part of another century, another millennium, the "good old days" are gone forever.

When I first discovered numismatics in 1952, I was as enthusiastic and excited as can be! Today I am as eager as ever. There are new discoveries to be made, new people to meet, new things to read about. I look forward to sharing thoughts and ideas with you in the months and years to come. •

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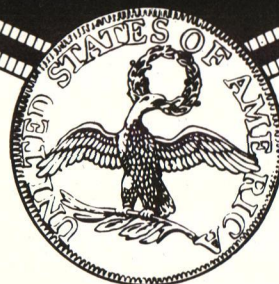
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1912-S "V" NICKEL	170	380	550	675	775	1100	2050
1913-S T2 BUFFALO	148	160	220	250	480	950	2250
1914-D BUFFALO	56	95	120	166	295	425	1090
1916/16 BUFFALO	6500	9300	14000	22500	40000	60000	180K
1918/17 D BUFFALO	1650	3650	6150	10000	32500	55000	170K
1937-D 3-LEG BUFFALO	240	325	490	950	2700	4300	12800
1916-D MERC DIME	1200	2050	3300	3900	4600	4850	14000
1921-P MERC DIME	125	330	535	750	1080	1250	2300
1921-D MERC DIME	170	380	615	800	1200	1400	2100
1942/41 MERC DIME	285	315	360	1150	2500	3700	5000
1942/41-D MERC DIME	315	400	650	1400	2300	3500	3850
1875-CC 20 CENTS	90	175	365	550	975	2250	8100
1876-CC 20 CENTS	6500	25000	30000	45000	65000	87500	130K
1901-S BARBER QUARTER	4600	6000	7650	11000	16000	19500	32000
1796 BUST QUARTER	8300	11500	13500	19500	24000	38500	70000
1804 BUST QUARTER	2400	6000	12500	31000	60000	70000	85000
1870-CC SEATED QUARTER	7250	9500	13500	19500	23000	27500	32000
1871-CC SEATED QUARTER	11000	15500	21500	24000	28000	32000	38000
1873-CC SEATED QUARTER	5100	7750	14600	26000	57500	65000	75000
1913-S BARBER QUARTER	2150	2700	3300	3800	5600	6650	10400
1916 ST. LIB. QUARTER	2200	2600	3400	4050	6000	7400	9750
1918/17-S SLQ	1900	3550	6150	8800	18000	27500	67500
1932-D WASH QUARTER	55	120	210	375	725	1100	4820
1932-S WASH QUARTER	48	64	100	215	325	460	2110
1794 FH HALF DOL.	4400	9600	16500	27500	265K	300K	400K
1836 REEDED EDGE HALF	950	1400	2400	4600	12000	25000	30000
1870-CC SEATED HALF	2500	7000	13500	25000	30000	40000	50000
1871-CC SEATED HALF	390	850	1400	6000	36000	42000	51000
1878-S SEATED HALF	9000	10500	13500	21750	55000	80000	100K
1893-S BARBER HALF DOL.	225	315	400	875	1900	5900	12000
1904-S BARBER HALF DOL.	250	510	750	1475	3850	6100	14000

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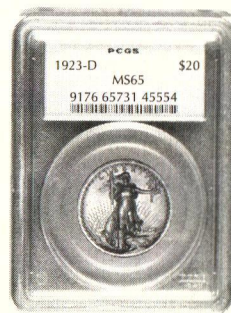
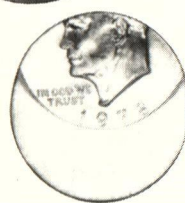
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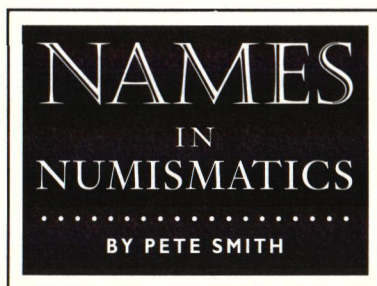
Matthew Stickney Made a Fine Trade

INSIDE A RECENT book purchase, I found a 4½ x 6½-inch card bearing an engraved portrait of Matthew Adams Stickney. Had I discovered a rare and unknown picture of an early collector?

Stickney's obituary in the *American Journal of Numismatics* is a great source of information. From this, we know he was born on September 23, 1805, in Rowley, Massachusetts. He married twice and had three daughters. About 1827 he was employed by Sawyer & Pierce, dealers in West India goods. After two years, he started a similar business; he retired in 1854.

His collecting interests blossomed early. By the age of 10, he had acquired nearly 2,000 birds' eggs. Stickney's collection of almanacs

printed in England and America after 1660 was considered the most complete ever assembled, and he



compiled a reference entitled *Almanacs and Their Authors*. He also collected autographs of signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Stickney was 18 when he started collecting coins. His grandfather gave him a large amount of Continental Currency received for service during the Revolutionary War. He obtained many rare coins from Beebe & Parshall's Bullion Exchange at the current rate of exchange.

A highlight of his collection was an 1804 dollar received in trade directly from the Mint; however, there are two very different interpretations of the transaction. Stickney told his version in a letter to dealer Edward Cogan, dated July 2, 1867:

I have a genuine proof dollar of the United States coinage of 1804. I do not dispose of any coins not duplicates, at any price. It is not likely that if I parted with this dollar, I could ever obtain another as I have been told by a gentleman largely engaged in selling coins at auction, that he thought that it would bring one thousand dollars.

Of the genuineness of my U. S. Dollar of 1804, I think there cannot be entertained a doubt, as it was

handed me directly from the Cabinet of the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia on the 9th of May, 1843, by one of its officers, who still holds the same situation there, and can testify to it. It was not then considered any more valuable than any other of the series, and I only desired it to help make up the Chronological series, which I perhaps was the first to attempt to make of U. S. Coins.

It was obtained with other coins, by an honorable exchange of Pine-Tree money and rarities not in their collection, one piece of which, has since proved to be of exceeding rarity the "Immune Columbia" in gold, 1783 which Mr. DuBois notices as a genuine re-struck and bearing the date of 1783, pg. 129 of his work on the Collection of Coins belonging to the U. S. Mint, 1846 and which I had obtained the day before, of Beebe and Parshall's in N.Y.

Auctions by Bowers and Merena included the letter with Stickney's dollar as Lot 2199 of its April 1997 sale of the Eliasberg collection.

Numismatic researcher Eric Newman expressed a very different view of the trade in his book *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, giving Stickney credit for greater numismatic sophistication than revealed in the letter. While Stickney stated he would not dispose of any coin that was not a duplicate, the gold "Immune Columbia" was not a duplicate. Why, asked Newman, did Stickney state that the 1804 dollar was genuine, when he should have known brilliant proofs were not made during that period, and why did he claim that the rarity of the gold piece became known only after the trade?



A portrait of Matthew A. Stickney was attached to the frontispiece of the table of contents for the 1907 volume of *The Numismatist*.

The gold Immune Columbia piece was struck over a 1775 English guinea, a more convenient source of the precious metal than a planchet. Newman believed Stickney would have known the piece was a restrike and an artificial rarity:

If Stickney knew that the Immune Columbia gold piece which was obtained from a bullion exchange was a restrike prepared by someone by using the existing dies, he would have no respect for the coin and would not hesitate to part with it. Wm. DuBois naturally knew that the 1804 dollar was struck from dies which the Mint had recently cut, and he had no respect for his dollar.

Poor health forced Stickney to withdraw to his home and give up the hobby. John Robinson, a young collector from Salem, found a "call-

ing card" that afforded access to the shut-in Stickney and his collection:

We took him bright Civil War tokens and little medals which, shut up as he was, he had no means of obtaining, and so beneath his beaming smiles we got our reward by glimpses of olive-colored, Uncirculated 1793's and by actually holding in our hand, the Massachusetts Janus Head 1776, and that rarity of rarities, the Brasher doubloon, which brought the unheard of sum of \$6000 at the sale of Stickney's collection.

Sylvester S. Crosby used the same scheme to gain Stickney's favor and the loan of several rare coins for inclusion in *Early Coins of America*.

Stickney died on August 11, 1894, in Salem, Massachusetts. His daughter retained parts of his coin collection and consigned them to

Henry Chapman for auction on June 25-29, 1907.

I posted an inquiry about the Stickney picture on the *E-Sylum*, the electronic newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, and received several responses. Apparently, compared with pictures of other early numismatists, those of Stickney are quite common.

One portrait appears in Henry Chapman's catalog of the Stickney collection. I understand a similar likeness appears in genealogies written by Stickney. Another version was inserted in the table of contents for the 1907 volume of *The Numismatist*. I suspect it is that picture I found inside the book I bought. A sketch by Alan Dietz, based on the early drawing, appears in John Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*. •



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Don't Ignore Franklin Mint Medals

IF YOU'VE BEEN involved with numismatics for any length of time, you probably are somewhat familiar with the many privately minted, "limited edition" silver medals that were issued in the 1960s and '70s. The Franklin Mint was one of the largest producers of such medals, most of which were issued as various series.

Located in Franklin Center, Pennsylvania, The Franklin Mint was founded by Joseph M. Segel in 1965. During its first few years, the company struck literally millions of gaming tokens for Nevada casinos. At that time, silver coins were disappearing from circulation, and silver dollars no longer were available for use in slot machines.

The Franklin Mint used state-of-the-art minting equipment and employed some of the foremost artists of the time, including Frank Gasparro, Elizabeth Jones, Gilroy Roberts, Norman Rockwell, Paul Vincze

and Andrew Wyeth. It is no wonder, then, that this company built a reputation for beautiful, high-quality

EXONUMIA
NOTEBOOK
.....
BY DAVID E. SCHENKMAN

medals. Some consider them to be miniature works of art.

Franklin Mint medal series were advertised heavily and sold by subscription. Subscribers received one or more medals each month and were provided with an album, or in some instances a wooden chest, to house the collection.

Mintages generally were limited to the number of subscribers and therefore, in most cases, were not very high. A typical example is the "Franklin Mint History of the American Revolution" 50-medal set, of which 6,246 were struck in proof silver, 525 in prooflike silver and 2,674 in proof bronze.

Perhaps you are thinking that with a mintage of more than 6,000 sets, these medals are readily available today. While I won't try to convince you that they are rare, I can assure you that Franklin Mint medals are not always easy to find. One reason is that, over the years, large numbers of modern silver medals have been melted for their bullion value. It's a shame so many attractive pieces were destroyed this way.

Another reason is that a good percentage of the silver medals that escaped the melting pot likely exist in

sets, making individual specimens hard to locate. (Like most exonumists, I tend to collect medals and tokens according to subject matter, not series). For example, one of my collecting specialties is tokens and medals relating to the famous Civil War battle between the ironclad vessels *Monitor* and *Merrimac*. I'm interested in all numismatic items that depict or mention the battle or the vessels, and I purchase modern pieces as well as their more contemporary counterparts. Several limited-edition silver medals were issued as parts of sets. Although they aren't expensive, I've found some can be quite elusive.

One medal that comes to mind shows the two vessels doing battle on the obverse, while the reverse depicts the two commanding officers. Struck by The Franklin Mint in 1974, it was No. 114 in its "National Commemorative Society" series of 150 medals. The mintage of 5,252 suggests specimens should appear in the marketplace with some frequency, but that isn't the case. For all practical purposes, the availability of this or any other modern medal is dictated by the number of sets that have been broken up. Then the obvious question is, why would anyone break up a complete set?

If I were to purchase a set, I'm sure I could sell some of the pieces very quickly (keeping the *Monitor/Merrimac* specimen for myself, of course). For some of the other medals, however, I doubt I could find buyers at any price.

The Franklin Mint always has had a knack for finding subjects that appeal to collectors. One ever-popular



Founded in 1965, The Franklin Mint struck millions of casino tokens in its first years of operation.



Actual Size: 45mm

The Franklin Mint is known for the quality of its medals. "Winter at Valley Forge" is captured on a piece in a series chronicling United States history (left). A medal struck for The Britannia Commemorative Society honors Lawrence of Arabia.

topic is sports, and pieces depicting personalities such as Babe Ruth or Joe Louis are in demand. Medals honoring famous people, such as American presidents, are highly sought, as are pieces commemorating manned space flights. In fact, The Franklin

Mint struck a series of 20 medals depicting various stages of the *Apollo 11* moon mission. It was advertised that they would be struck from silver carried to the moon by astronauts.

On the other hand, I've found virtually no demand for modern medals

having religious themes. Therefore, they probably were prime targets for the melting pot, and sets of medals such as The Franklin Mint's "Life of Christ Series" might well be much scarcer today than their mintage of 1,898 would indicate.

A wealth of information concerning Franklin Mint medals is contained in the *Guidebook of Franklin Mint Issues*, published by Krause Publications in the 1970s and '80s. Written by Chester Krause and ANA past president Virginia Culver, it provides descriptions, mintages and the issue price of each medal.

I welcome reader correspondence about all tokens and medals. Write to me at P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617. If a reply is desired, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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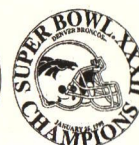
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- In February 1980, while the coin market was smoking hot and the "experts" were buying with reckless abandon ... *he liquidated his entire inventory!*
Just two short months later ... the rare coin market collapsed!
- In April 1989, *he sold his entire inventory* to Kidder-Peabody's American Rare Coin Fund. That was at the same time the "experts" had a severe case of Wall Street fever! **Little more than a month later the coin market crashed!**

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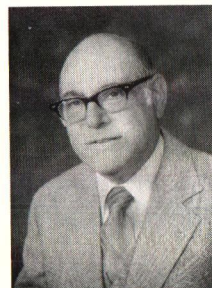
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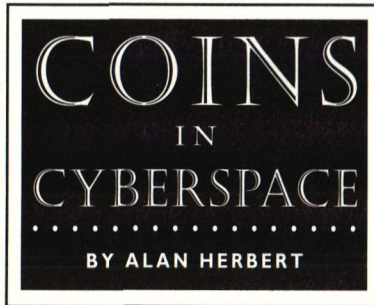
A Post-Y2K Boom

AT THE RISK of missing the publication deadline for this issue, I waited until New Year's Day to write my column, because a lot of our computer future was riding on the events associated with the end of 1999. Since I do not agree with those who tried to make a millennium out of 999 years (mostly as a marketing ploy), I plan to celebrate that landmark event next January 1. For those who might question my judgment on this, I suggest visiting the United States Naval Observatory at aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/faq/docs/millennium.html.

But, I digress. I didn't come here to argue. Instead, I'm intent on spreading the message about how computers can help you as a collector or dealer. Thanks to the non-event known as Y2K (and may this be the last time you read or hear that expression), the future of computers looks brighter than ever. This is not to say there wasn't a problem (there was, and a very serious one at that) or that there won't be glitches in the coming months. (The one incident I've heard of that affected our hobby was a web page put up with a date of January 1, 100. As long as the problems are not any worse than that, we're home free.)

Worldwide, there are now some 65 million computers hooked up to the Internet. Last month, I quoted one source as saying that more than 50 percent of all households in the United States have a computer. This figure is being disputed by Bill Gates of Microsoft, who stated that the figure actually is somewhat less than 50 percent. Frankly it's doubtful that anyone knows the exact figure, but

whichever way it falls, it's still an impressive statistic. America Online claims 18 million subscribers, and



Amazon.com boasts a database of 13 million customers. One more statistic: by the end of this year, it's expected that high-speed Internet connections will be available to 45 percent of the nation's households.

Now that the "end of the world" has come and gone, you are going to see even more frenzied activity in the cybermarket. Thousands of companies were holding back, waiting to see how much damage would occur. Now that the fear has passed, market experts see a tremendous boom in the Internet marketplace. This may translate—according to my crystal ball—into a several-hundred-point jump in technology stocks.

This quite likely is going to be the year that a major portion of telephone traffic moves onto the Internet. Even for those of you who don't have a computer, there undoubtedly will be benefits. Some time back, the experts were saying that within a couple of years charges for telephone use would be a thing of the past. The post-Y2K boom can only accelerate that day.

Christmas business on the Inter-

net more than tripled over 1998, as more companies worked the bugs out of stocking and shipping goods that could be purchased in a matter of seconds. With the lessons learned, it's expected that Christmas 2000 will find the Internet involved in perhaps 25 percent of all retail sales. This is something coin dealers need to watch and learn from.

Bits and Bites

♦ A sour note among the upbeat news is the way the sharks are gathering at some numismatic auction sites. One of the more glaring examples is the recent offering of an altered, copper-plated steel cent, which attracted more than two dozen bids. This altered coin technically has no collector value, cannot be authenticated and should never have been put up for auction in the first place.

♦ A related, disturbing trend is the tendency to quote web auction prices as the "real" value of a given coin. Comparing prices bid by novices with those at an auction run by a reputable coin auctioneer is sheer folly. In addition, counterfeits and copies frequently are being offered as genuine.

♦ How many are there now? The last time I checked goldsheet.simplenet.com/coins.htm, 1,339 numismatic web sites were listed, and that undoubtedly does not include every one. This is a good address to add to your "Favorites" list on your computer, because just one more click will take you directly to your site of choice. If your site isn't listed, you can furnish the information on the spot. •



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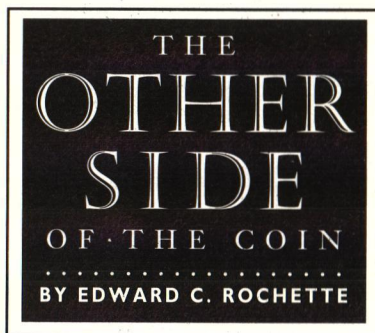


Taking the Cockleshell

AS THE DAYS of this last century drew to a close, stonemasons in the Spanish town of Santiago de Compostela began sealing the entrance to the Cathedral of St. James the Greater. Known as the Holy Door, this renowned portal will remain sealed until the next time the Apostle's feast day, July 25, falls on a Sunday.

In the early years of the previous millennium, this site drew between 500,000 to 2,000,000 pilgrims annually. The journey to Santiago de Compostela became so popular that it inspired the first tourist guide ever written. Published in 1130, the guide described various routes to the shrine, sights along the way, regular weather patterns and the customs of

the various regions traversed. Today's Michelin travel guides are not much different. During a Holy Year,



the number of visitors who set out on a pilgrimage to the site where the Apostle James is believed to be buried still approaches the hundreds of thousands.

To undertake such a religious tour is termed to "take the cockleshell." Recent visitors who partici-

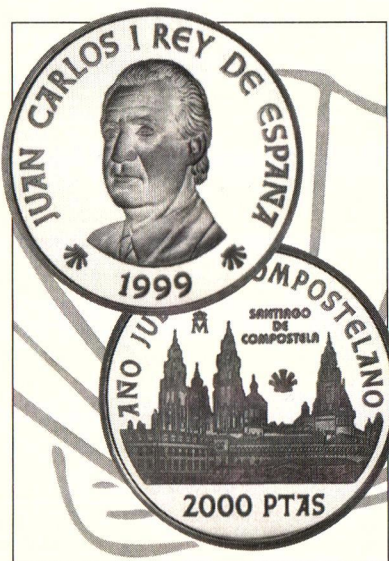
pated in at least an abbreviated journey to Santiago de Compostela included a number of numismatists who had traveled to Spain to attend the 1999 International Congress on the Study of Monetary Museums, held at the Spanish Mint in Madrid. ANA Museum Curator Robert Hoge and I, in my role as ANA executive director, were invited to present papers at the Congress. Afterward, we joined a small group of travelers bound for the holy shrine in Santiago.

The cockleshell—or scallop shell—to those of us in the New World—historically has been used to identify pilgrims venturing along once-hazardous routes through France and Spain. Many contemporary visitors continue this tradition, wearing scallop shells (real or cast in silver) as badges of the journey.

In the Christian community, religious doctrine relates that soon after the Resurrection, the Apostle James



Pilgrims wait to pass through the Holy Door of the Cathedral of St. James the Greater (left). A piece of stone taken from the door is embedded in this commemorative issue.



This commemorative, silver 2,000-peseta coin is one of a series produced by the Spanish Mint during the 1999 Holy Year.

sailed west from the shores of Judea, across the Mediterranean, through the Straits of Gibraltar and north along the Iberian coast. During a violent storm, his boat was swept ashore near the mouth of the Ulla River, close to the northwest tip of Spain. James' mission was to convert Spain to Christianity.

St. James (known as "Santiago" in Spain) is said to have preached and made many converts on the Iberian Peninsula before returning to Judea. He was beheaded on order of Herod Agrippa in A.D. 44, and the Catholic Church lists him as the first apostle to be martyred. St. James' followers reportedly brought his remains back to Spain when they returned to continue his evangelical work.

With the Holy Year of St. James just passed, numismatic material is-

sued in honor of the event certainly augmented many a numismatist's collection. The Spanish Mint struck a series of commemorative coins, including a silver piece with a face value of 2,000 pesetas and a commemorative value of 8 reales. Dated 1999, the obverse portrays King Juan Carlos I, and the reverse depicts the imposing Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

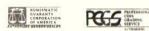
The most unusual medallion issue features an actual piece of stone taken from the opening for the 1999 Holy Year observance. The other side of this silver piece displays the baroque façade of the Doorway of Glory, the main entrance to the cathedral. Several other issues are produced in the traditional scallop shape or feature the pilgrim emblem in their design.

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Last month, I was asked to evaluate an offering for what seemed to be a rare New England shilling. The seller was seeking bids on what he described as an old coin he could not identify. Because he did not know what it was, he said the buyer must use his or her own judgment.

A large, clear picture accompanied the offering, and I must say it looked very much like the genuine article. On closer examination, however, I could see it was a clever fake, not made from genuine dies and unlike any known, original piece.

By the time I determined the coin was fake, the Internet bid was more than \$1,000—which was to be expected for a coin that would have been worth around \$30,000 if genuine. As far as I could tell, the coin was never sold, and it is likely the owner did not know the piece was not authentic.

There are many legitimate coin offerings on the Internet, so do not

ignore this efficient way to shop. But be sure you know what you are buying and understand the return policy.



File #620

Sets of coins always are popular, and a recent offering of "Four Obsolete American Coins" was appealing in every way except price. The set included a half cent, 2 cents, 3 cents and 20 cents, which, according to the illustration, probably are in Fine condition. The description was accurate and even titillating. Of course, the coins are guaranteed genuine. The asking price of \$229, however, is more than double what most dealers would charge.

Years ago, I saw nearly the same coins in another ad, at about half the price of the current offering. Were they really a bargain back then or have prices risen so much that even overpriced coins look good today?

File #621

So-called ancient Chinese "bronze spade money" is available from several companies. It actually is not "spade" money; technically it should be called "pu," or cloth money. No matter, the picture shows exactly what these items are—authentic, 1,900-year-old artifacts.

The ad claims they were struck by hand in ancient times, but that,

too, is wrong. These pieces are among the few coins that were cast instead of struck, a minting technique in which the Chinese excelled.

These are nice numismatic items that would be a neat addition to any collection. At \$49.95 each, they are a bit pricey, but not outrageous if you can't find similar specimens for less at a local dealer.

File #622

I guess it is a matter of opinion as to whether "colored" coins are attractive. There seems to be a rash of these items on the market. Some are made by issuing countries; others are painted in fancy colors after leaving the mint. In this country, United States silver American Eagle bullion coins, and Kennedy and Walking Liberty half dollars are the most recent targets, but colored coins appear to be a worldwide phenomenon right now.

The custom of coloring coins is more than a century old. It began at a time when coins were popularly used in jewelry and enhanced by enameling in vivid colors. Those pieces now are very valuable antiques eagerly sought by collectors. The new generation of painted coins is much less elaborate; the colors usually are applied by silk screening or a similar printing method.

The process of adding color to coins is expensive, whether completed officially at some mint or privately. If you like colored coins and plan to purchase some pieces, be prepared to pay a healthy price. Try to determine if the color was applied as an official issue or added later. (The United States government has

never made any such coins.) That distinction may make a big difference when it comes time to sell.

File #623

I assume you are not a member of the World Currency Cartel. If you were, you would be so rich by now, you could afford to have someone else read this for you. I recently received some literature that explained how easy it is for members of the cartel to make money with their insider knowledge.

They have learned about some "secret flaw" that allows them to convert \$99 into \$580. They can do this as many times a day as they want, and it is simple and legal. Once you know the secret, no one can stop you from earning hundreds, thousands or even millions of dollars (as

long as this secret flaw exists).

Needless to say, this prospect got my attention, and I was pretty enthused until I read that to get the needed information, I must pay a one-time membership fee of \$195 plus \$34 postage. Not that this is very much money for a plan that could make me a millionaire, but I didn't believe it would be as simple as advertised. If any of you are using this system, will you please have one of your servants give me a call and let me know how it works?

File #624

Purchase a Byzantine gold coin from this company, and you can introduce a loved one to the world of coin collecting or add prestige to your own collection. It is a solid gold coin that portrays both Christ and the Virgin

Mary and was minted by hand at the height of the ancient Byzantine Empire 1,000 years ago. At least that is what the ad in a sales catalog says. The coin is pictured, so potential buyers can judge the accuracy of these statements for themselves.

The catalog shows a gold *histanon nomisma*, or *solidus*, of the Byzantine emperor Romanus III, who reigned from 1028 to 1034, close to 1,000 years ago. One side of the coin shows the emperor standing beside the Virgin Mary; the other side features a seated figure of Christ. It is a classic, though not particularly rare, coin of the period that would enhance any collection, especially now, when prices of these pieces are relatively low—about half the \$1,000 asking price quoted in this ad.

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BOOKMARKS
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A New Book and a New Bibliography

■ **The Indian Peace Medals of George III or His Majesty's Sometime Allies** (ANA Library Cat. No. RM85.I5a3) by John W. Adams is remarkable for its presentation as well as the information it presents. Adams combines archival research with a thorough analysis of those numismatic aspects essayed by previous authors. In the process, he corrects a number of historical inaccuracies of other researchers, noting that the "common failing of earlier writers is that they have tended to focus on numismatic aspects of the medals, dipping only tentatively into the vast archives of available historical information."

Discussion of the Indian perspective, as well as comprehensive notes and a bibliography, make this book the "gem" that Editor Emeritus J.C. Spilman of *The Colonial Newsletter* terms it. As Michael Hodder (associate editor of the same publication) explains, "For those of us with an interest in the Indian Peace Medals in America—we have a new 'bible.'"

Printed by Bird and Bull Press of Newtown, Pennsylvania, the 163-page, 6 x 9-inch, hardbound reference is produced by letterpress on Frankfurt mouldmade paper from Dante types composed by Michael and Winifred Bixler. Duotone illustrations were printed by Stinehour Press, and the book was bound by Campbell-Logan Bindery. Limited to 500, individually numbered copies, it is offered by George Fredrick Kolbe Publications, P.O.

Drawer 3100, Crestline, CA 92325-3100, telephone 909/338-6527.

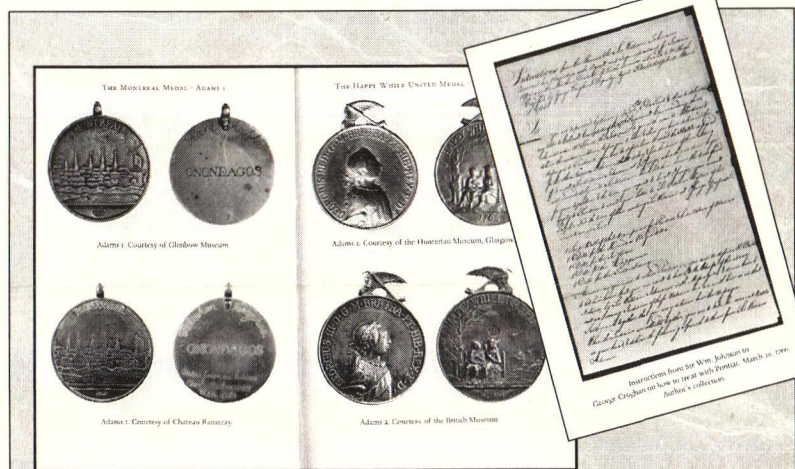
■ Through generous donations from Friends of the Library/Libris in Socii (FOLLIS), the Library has begun a much-delayed and badly needed archival program. Former R.S. Yeoman Intern Heather Gerhart, whose work with local museums and the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center provided training and experience in processing eclectic archival materials, will oversee the development of finding aids and a digital listing for artifacts and documents from previous and current donations. Because FOLLIS donations will fund part of her salary, Yeoman funds can be used for another important project.

The Arthur Braddan Coole Collection of books about Chinese and Japanese numismatics is a unique part of the ANA Library's holdings. However, because these references are printed in Chinese and Japanese and very little exists in the way of translated material, they seldom are

used by researchers.

Former R.S. Yeoman Intern Jack Hayes, who recently graduated from the University of Hawaii with a combined master's degree in Modern East Asian History and Modern European Intellectual History, became interested in the Coole Library during his tenure at the ANA. He has agreed to serve another term as R.S. Yeoman intern to compile an annotated bibliography of Coole Library materials, translating, organizing and identifying books useful for numismatists and interdisciplinary scholars alike. Hayes' work, as well as pertinent photographic images, will be available on the ANA web site (www.money.org). He will assist the Library staff in identifying volumes most useful for digitization.

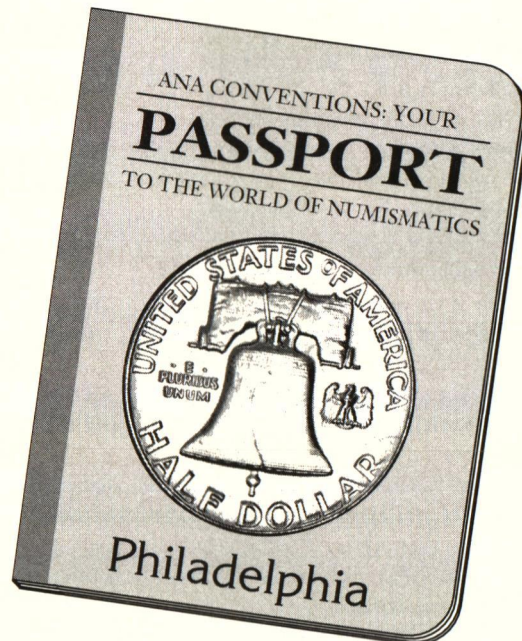
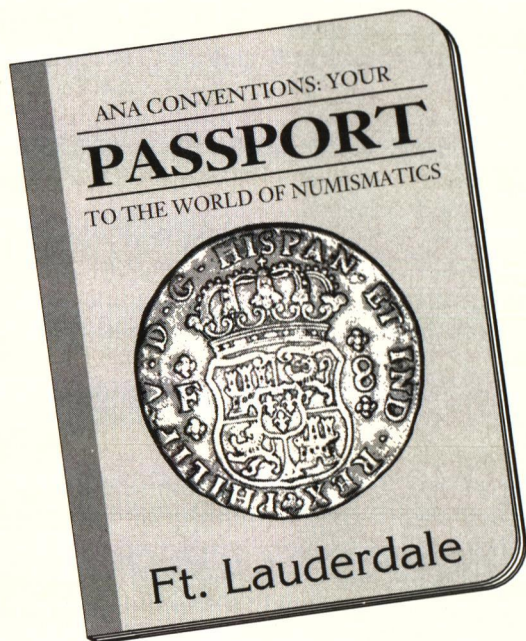
Although the project is quite complicated, initial information and images should be available on the web site within the coming year. When completed, information and digital images will be linked to major Asian studies archives around the world. •



Indian Peace Medals of George III or His Majesty's Sometime Allies by John W. Adams is an excellent example of the bookmaker's craft and a stellar addition to the numismatic resources now available on Early American numismatics.

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An Artist's Brush

continued from page 174

reference. The half dime, dime, quarter dollar, half dollar and silver dollar of this period all were of the Seated Liberty type. In 1862 all but the half dime and dime had stars on the obverse. However, the half dime and dime displayed stars as recently as 1860 and still were in circulation. Technically, the coins depicted could have been any of the circulating coinage of the realm. The notes displayed, however, are another story.

The two 10-cent notes on either side of the vignette at top center are easily identified as first-issue United States postage currency. The presence of these notes is not surprising, given the severe shortage of circulating coinage during the Civil War and that the issuance of postage currency (under the Postage Currency Act of July 17, 1862) was widely accepted as a stopgap. The portrait of George Washington, which was adopted from contemporary postage stamps, identifies the issues. The notes were produced in both perforated and non-perforated varieties. National Bank Note Company of New York originally had the contract to manufacture these notes, but because of security reasons, American Bank Note Company printed the backs. The notes depicted by Homer were green, non-perforated, 10-cent U.S. postage currency, measuring approximately 44 x 66mm.

The inscription found on the faces of these notes reads POSTAGE CURRENCY/FURNISHED ONLY BY THE ASSISTANT TREASURERS/AND DESIGNATED DEPOSITARIES OF/THE U.S./RECEIVABLE FOR POSTAGE STAMPS/AT ANY POST OFFICE. In small type at the bottom appears the name of the printer,



Actual Size: 38.1mm

The design of Seated Liberty coinage (such as this 1851 dollar), incorporating stars around the upper portion of the obverse, probably was the inspiration for the composition of "Pay-Day."

NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. N.Y. The standard reference *Paper Money of the United States* by Robert Friedberg lists two, straight-edge varieties of this note (FR 1242, with the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) monogram on the back, and FR 1243, with no monogram). Since the backs are not shown in Homer's illustration, we cannot determine exactly which Friedberg number these notes represent.

A soldier's pay was just enough to buy a few extras, if any, from a sutler. These items generally were things a soldier could use in daily camp life and, therefore, usually not of high value. The sutler, however, had a captive audience and no commercial competitors. Granted, wartime merchants took great risks, especially when setting up right outside a military camp; nevertheless, sutlers commonly were perceived as profiteers. They were not there out of a sense of patriotic duty.

Demand was high for lower-priced goods, and these transactions required the ability to make change. As was true across the country, hoarding limited the availability of small-denomination coinage. Therefore, the use of U.S. postage currency was a real necessity in all

walks of life. Many of the soldiers depicted in Homer's rendering seem to be clenching large-size bills in their fists. This probably is simple artistic license.

Numismatics definitely influenced the thematic elements of this illustration. Homer's work conveys a great deal about many related topics—the Civil War, postage currency and the artist himself. This illustration continues to provide me with hours of enjoyment and education, and all because I became involved with this fascinating hobby. •

Sources

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- Whitmoyer, Jessica. "Civil War Art Gallery." *America's Civil War* (January 1998).
- Yeoman, R.S. *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, 44th ed. Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing Company, 1991.

Thomas O'Mara, a convertible securities trader residing in New Jersey, collects United States postage and fractional currency, as well as New Jersey obsolete bank notes and scrip. O'Mara is president of the Fractional Currency Collectors Board (FCCB) and a member of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, American Numismatic Society, Civil War Token Society and Ocean County (New Jersey) Coin Club.

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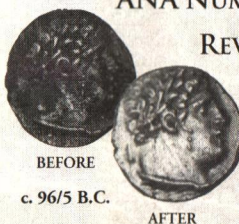
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Coin Club Hosts Dinner Cruise at ANA Show

A dinner cruise in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida—the “Venice of the Atlantic”—is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, during the ANA’s National Money Show™ 2000. Hosted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club, the evening cruise features a relaxing trip up the New River aboard the *Jungle Queen*.

From the decks of the riverboat, participants will view “Millionaire’s Row” and the primeval Everglades. The boat will dock at “Exotic Island,” where guests will feast on an all-you-can-eat dinner of barbecued ribs, chicken and shrimp with all the trimmings before enjoying a lively variety show. During the return trip to Bahia Mar Docks, participants can join in a sing-a-long.

“The Fort Lauderdale Coin Club, host organization for the ANA show at the Broward County Convention Center, wants everyone to experience Florida hospitality,” says ANA Convention Services Manager Brenda Bishop. “The club has chartered the boat for this event and is paying for half the cost, including bus transportation to and from the riverboat dock.”

Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased through March 3. Buses depart from the Convention Center at 6 p.m. For reservations, contact the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club, P.O. Box 22102, Ft. Lau-

derdale, FL 33335-2102, or E-mail rockychem1@prodigy.net.

U.S. Mint Invites Kids to Florida Convention

The United States Mint will sponsor special, 60-minute “Kids’ Conferences” on Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, at the ANA’s National Money Show™ 2000 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Local 4th-, 5th- and 6th-graders, as well as area Boy and Girl Scout troops, have been invited to participate in a variety of hands-on activities that provide fun-filled lessons in history and mathematics. (For example, one part of the Mint’s program tells the story of Sacagawea, the young Indian guide who appears on the face of America’s new golden dollar.)

While students are involved, teachers will be able to talk with official representatives about the U.S. Mint’s educational web site (www.usmint.gov/kids). Featured on the interactive site are lesson plans, thought-provoking games, and tips for incorporating numismatics into history, math and language studies.

Pre-registration is required for the conferences, scheduled for 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday and 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. To learn more, contact R.W. Walker Browner at the United States Mint, 202/216-1857.

Clubs Encouraged to Submit Publications in Annual Contest

The ANA soon will select 1999’s top club-published newsletters and journals for recognition at its 109th Anniversary Convention in Philadel-

phia, August 9-13. The Outstanding Club Publications Award competition is divided into three categories: Local Club, Regional Club and Specialty Club.

Deadline for receipt of entries is April 30. To obtain a complete set of rules and guidelines for submission, contact the Publications Department; visit the ANA’s web site; or call the ANA’s Fax-on-Request Service, toll-free 800/910-7224, and enter Code #201550.

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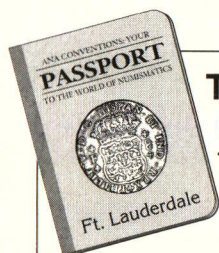
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Membership News



Tentative Schedule of Events

NATIONAL MONEY SHOW™ 2000 • MARCH 3-5, 2000 • FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. Numismatic Theatre presentations are prefixed by "NT." ANA Treasure Trivia Game is conducted during public bourse hours.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

8:30 a.m.

ANA U.S. Coin Grading Seminar Room 122/123

9:00 a.m.

Auction lot viewing opens Room 114

6:00 p.m.

Auction lot viewing closes

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

8:00 a.m.

ANA Board Meeting (closed session) Marina
Marriott

8:30 a.m.

ANA U.S. Coin Grading Seminar Room 122/123

9:00 a.m.

Auction lot viewing opens Room 114

2:00 p.m.

Dealer Registration opens Halls B & C
Security Room opens Room 119

6:00 p.m.

Auction lot viewing closes

6:30 p.m.

Dealer Registration closes

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

8:00 a.m.

ANA Board Meeting (open session) Room 223

8:30 a.m.

ANA U.S. Coin Grading Seminar Room 122/123
Dealer Registration opens Halls B & C

9:00 a.m.

Auction lot viewing opens Room 114

3:00 p.m.

Dealers & exhibitors may set up Halls B & C

4:00 p.m.

Security Room closes (reopens Sunday,
March 5, 3:30 p.m.)

6:30 p.m.

Dealer Registration closes
Admission to bourse & exhibit area closes
Auction lot viewing closes

7:00 p.m.

Bourse & exhibit area must be vacated
ANA Auction Session #1 Room 113

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

8:00 a.m.

Bourse opens to dealers with tables Halls B & C
Exhibitors may place exhibits Halls B & C
Dealer Registration opens Halls B & C

9:00 a.m.

Public Registration opens Halls B & C
Auction lot viewing opens Room 114

9:45 a.m.

Official Convention Opening Ceremonies Hall C Lobby

10:00 a.m.

All exhibits must be in place Halls B & C
Ribbon Cutting Hall C Lobby
Bourse & exhibits open to the public Halls B & C

10:30 a.m.

United States Mint "Kids' Conference" Halls B & C

11:00 a.m.

NT: To be announced Room 123

11:30 a.m.

United States Mint "Kids' Conference" Halls B & C

12:00 p.m.

NT: "First the Book: Building a Core Numismatic Library" (Beth Deisher) Room 123

12:30 a.m.

United States Mint "Kids' Conference" Halls B & C

1:00 p.m.

NT: "Pitfalls of Buying Coins on the Internet & How to Avoid Them" (John Zuk) Room 123

2:00 p.m.

NT: "Indian Peace Medals of George III" (John Adams) Room 123

Membership News

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 (continued)

3:00 p.m.

NT: "England's Queens" (Arthur Fitts III) Room 123

4:00 p.m.

NT: "The Sale of the Century: The ABNCo Archives" (John & Nancy Wilson) Room 123

5:00 p.m.

Dealer Registration closes

6:30 p.m.

Public Registration closes

Admission to bourse & exhibit area closes

Auction lot viewing closes

7:00 p.m.

Bourse & exhibit area must be vacated

ANA Auction Session #2 Room 113

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m.

Dealer Registration opens Halls B & C

Bourse opens to dealers with tables Halls B & C

Public Registration opens Halls B & C

10:00 a.m.

Bourse & exhibits open to the public Halls B & C

ANA Girl Scout "Collecting" Hobbies" Room 223

Badge Workshop

11:00 a.m.

NT: "Numismatic Treasures" (Anthony Swiatek) Room 123

12:00 p.m.

NT: "Coin Collecting for the New Millennium & Beyond" (Scott Travers) Room 123

1:00 p.m.

ANA Boy Scout "Coin Collecting" Merit Badge Clinic Room 223

NT: "Rare United States Silver Dollars" (David Lange) Room 123

2:00 p.m.

NT: "Coinage of the Republic of Cuba: The Pre-Castro Years" (David Provost) Room 123

2:30 p.m.

United States Mint "Kids' Conference" Halls B & C

3:00 p.m.

NT: "Counterfeit Detection: U.S. Gold" (Brian Silliman); followed by hands-on session at 4 p.m. Room 123

3:30 p.m.

ANA Teen MoneyMall Orientation Room 213
United States Mint "Kids' Conference" Halls B & C

4:00 p.m.

NT: "Art & Money" (J.S.G. Boggs) Room 123

5:00 p.m.

Dealer Registration closes

ANA Teen MoneyMall dealers may set up Halls B & C

ANA Judges & Exhibitors Reception Room 217

6:30 p.m.

Public Registration closes

Admission to bourse & exhibit area closes

7:00 p.m.

Bourse & exhibit area must be vacated

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

8:00 a.m.

ANA Exhibit Committee Meeting Room 217

9:00 a.m.

Bourse opens to dealers with tables Halls B & C

9:30 a.m.

Public Registration opens Halls B & C

10:00 a.m.

Bourse & exhibits open to the public Halls B & C

ANA Teen MoneyMall opens to the public Halls B & C

2:00 p.m.

ANA Treasure Trivia Prize Drawing Halls B & C

3:00 p.m.

Public Registration closes

Admission to bourse & exhibit area closes

3:30 p.m.

Security Room opens Room 119

4:00 p.m.

Bourse & exhibit area must be vacated

Exhibits must be removed

Convention closes

MONDAY, MARCH 6

10:00 a.m.

Security Room closes

Membership News

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MARCH 3-5, 2000 / FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA



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1836 Half Dime
VALENTINE-5, RARITY-6,
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The Eliasberg Specimen



1795 Bust Half Dollar
OVERTON-113A
NGC MS63



1853 Half Dollar
Arrows at Date, Rays on Reverse
NGC Proof 65
The Eliasberg Specimen



1895-O Morgan Dollar
Deep Mirror Prooflike
NGC MS65
Pop: 2, with 0 higher



1795 Half Eagle
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1795 Eagle
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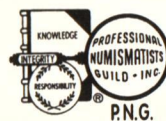
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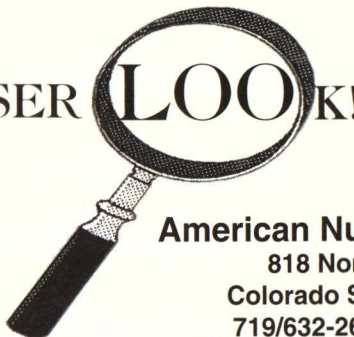
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Membership News

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received at least eight weeks prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably as much as four months in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; E-mail anaedi@money.org. Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by post card; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.

EAST

FEBRUARY

12-13 STATE COLLEGE, PA. Days Inn/Penn State, 240 S. Pugh St. Centre Coin Club Annual Show. Thomas Daubert, 378 Bradley Ave., State College, PA 16801, telephone 814/238-0467.

20 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction conducted by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104 or 716/634-0668 (evenings/weekends), E-mail jalmar@buffnet.net.

MARCH

4 MASSAPEQUA, NY. Elks Lodge, 2162 Veterans Blvd. Massapequa Coin Club & Currency Club of Long Island Early Spring Show. MCC, P.O. Box 56, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

4-5 HAGERSTOWN, MD. Venice Inn Hotel Ballroom, Dual Hwy. (E. Hagers-

town on U.S. 40). Interstate Coin Club Coin Show. Robert K. Brechbiel, P.O. Box 1901, Hagerstown, MD 21742, telephone 301/739-5414.

5 WEST CHESTER, PA. Holiday Inn, 943 S. High St. 36th Annual West Chester Coin Club Show. Ed Quagliana, 68 Grubb Rd., Malvern, PA 19355, telephone 610/647-2439.

11-12 INDIANA, PA. Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave. (Rt. 119 S.). Indiana Coin Club 42nd Annual Spring Coin Show. Bourse Chairman John F. Busovicki, 510 Walcott St., Clymer, PA 15728-1427, telephone 724/254-2471.

11-12 YORK, PA. Springetts Fire Hall, 3013 E. Market St. 39th Annual

ANA EVENTS

March 3-5 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Greater Ft. Lauderdale /Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd. ANA National Money Show. Contact Convention Department.

April 16-22 National Coin Week. Contact Education Department.

July 1-7 and 8-14 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. The Colorado College. 32nd Annual ANA Summer Seminar. Contact Education Department.

July 7 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. ANA Second Annual Double Eagle "No-Pro" Golf Tournament. Contact Education Department.

August 9-13 PHILADELPHIA, PA. Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1201 Arch St. ANA 109th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

February 4-6 ST. LOUIS, MO. Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 N. Lindbergh Blvd. (Hwy. 67). St. Louis Numismatic Association 36th Annual Greater America Coin Fair. Mike Orlando, P.O. Box 1102, St. Louis, MO 63074.

February 19-20 MODESTO, CA. Modesto Centre Plaza, 1000 "L" St. The Modesto Millennium Coin Show sponsored by the California State Numismatic Association. CSNA, P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785, telephone Bourse Chairman Ruben Smith, 209/982-5961, or Show Chairman Terry Woodward, 209/668-3682.

February 25-27 HONOLULU, HI. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. 10th Annual Hawaii Collectors' Expo sponsored by the Hawaii State Numismatic Association. HSNA, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI 96809, telephone 808/486-4766.

March 18-19 BILOXI, MS. President Casino Broadwater Resort, 2110 W. Beach Blvd. 39th Annual Mississippi Numismatic Association State Convention & Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Louis Villalpando, 142 Kenmore Ave., Biloxi, MS 39531, telephone 228/388-0881.

March 18-19 WINTERSVILLE, OH. St. Florian Hall, 286 Luray Dr. (behind fire station). Ohio Valley Coin Association's 51st Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Terry Jones, P.O. Box 451, Steubenville, OH 43952, telephone 740/537-4798.

March 31-April 2 DALTON, GA. North West Georgia Trade & Convention Center (I-75, Exit 136). Georgia Numismatic Association 2000 Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Martin Maddox, P.O. Box 1415, Oxford, GA 30054-1415, telephone 770/922-1423, E-mail maddoxmps@aol.com.

Membership News

Coin Show sponsored by the York Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Jane Knaub, 150 Throne Ave., York, PA 17402, telephone 717/757-4070.

19 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J.
Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St., Erie County Coin, Stamp & Currency Show sponsored by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104 or 716/634-0668 (evenings/weekends), E-mail jalmar@buffnet.net.

APRIL

1-2 LANCASTER, PA. Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Arcadia Rd. (off Rt. 72, Manheim Pike). Red Rose Coin Club 10th Annual Spring Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Tony Almond, c/o

RRCC, P.O. Box 621, Lancaster, PA 17608, telephone 610/323-7773.

7-9 WHITE PLAINS, NY. Westchester County Center, Bronx River Pkwy. & Central Ave. Coin & Stamp Show co-sponsored by the Cross States Numismatic Association, Westchester County Coin Club and White Plains Coin Club. Mark Simon, 789 Yonkers Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704, telephone 914/423-7957.

8-9 SALEM, VA. American Legion Hall, 710 Apperson Dr. Spring Coin Show conducted by the Salem Coin Club. Show Chairman Emmett Yonce, P.O. Box 512, Daleville, VA 24083, telephone 540/992-5331.

16 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J.
Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin &

Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction held by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104 (M-F, 10-5) or 716/634-0668 (evenings/weekends); E-mail jalmar@buffnet.net.

SOUTH

FEBRUARY

5-6 VICKSBURG, MS. Battlefield Inn, 4137 I-20 Frontage Rd. (Exit 4B). Vicksburg Coin Club Coin Show. Cason Schaffer, 107 East View Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39183-8105, telephone 601/638-1195.

6 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (I-95 to Hollywood



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Membership News

Blvd., E. to 24th Ave., left 3 blocks). Gold Coast Coin Club Monthly Coin & Stamp Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

12-13 DUNCAN, OK. Fairground Bldg., 1618 S. 13th St. (E. of Halliburton on Hwy. 81). 31st Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Stephens County Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Frank (Stan) Stambaugh, P.O. Box 635, Duncan, OK 73534-0635, telephone 580/255-3400.

25-27 GREENVILLE, SC. Crowne Plaza, Roper Mountain Rd. at I-385. Greenville Coin Club Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Sam Norris, 104 Kendal Ct., Easley, SC 29642, telephone 864/855-2150 (days) or 864/269-0375 (evenings).

25-27 MEMPHIS, TN. Creative Arts Bldg., Memphis Fairgrounds. Memphis Coin Club Coin Show. Ray W. Brown, P.O. Box 40572, Memphis, TN 38174-0572, telephone 901/321-3408.

MARCH

5 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (I-95 to Hollywood Blvd., E. to 24th Ave., left 3 blocks). Gold Coast Coin Club Monthly Coin & Stamp Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

25-26 WEST PALM BEACH, FL. Knights of Columbus, 1155 S. Congress Ave. Palm Beach Coin Club Spring Show. Tony Swicer, P.O. Box 5823, Lake Worth, FL 33466. telephone 561/964-8180.

APRIL

1 MCKINNEY, TX. Holiday Inn, 1300 N. Central Expy. (Hwy. 75 N., Exit 40B). Collin County Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. Gary Rollins, P.O. Box 744, McKinney, TX 75070-0744, telephone 972/727-1566.

2 HOLLYWOOD, FL. Rotary Club, 2349 Taylor St. (I-95 to Hollywood Blvd., E. to 24th Ave., left 3 blocks). Gold Coast Coin Club Monthly Coin & Stamp Show. GCCC, P.O. Box 910, Hollywood, FL 33022.

21-22 ARLINGTON, TX. La Quinta Inn, S.W. corner I-30 & S.H. 360. Dallas/Mid-Cities Coin Show sponsored by the Dallas Coin Club. Mike Grant, P.O. Box 171719, Arlington, TX 76003, telephone 817/496-2388, fax 817/496-2390, E-mail gahill@home.com.

CENTRAL

FEBRUARY

6 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI. Birmingham Masonic Temple, 357 Woodward Ave. Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club. Bourse Chairman John L. Frank, 725 S. Adams, Suite 21, Birmingham, MI 48009, telephone 248/644-8818.

6 ROCKFORD, IL. Holiday Inn/Hoffman House, 7550 E. State St. Rockford Area Coin Club 87th Semi-Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Larry Kasberger, 2419 Circle Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008, telephone 815/547-6382.

20 ROCHESTER, MN. Radisson Plaza Hotel, 150 S. Broadway. Rochester Coin Club Southern Minnesota Annual Winter Coin & Stamp Show. Chairman Jerry Swanson, P.O. Box 565, Rochester, MN 55903, telephone 507/289-5099.

20 XENIA, OH. Greene County Fairgrounds (Dining Hall), W. Ankeney Mill Rd. Green County Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. John Eckman, 4722 S. Dixie Dr., Dayton, OH 45439, telephone 937/294-0601.

26 PEKIN, IL. Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St. (half block N. of Pekin

Hospital, across from Pekin Park Lagoon). Tazewell Numismatic Society 2nd Winter Show. Bourse Chairman Dale O. Freidinger, c/o TNS, P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61554, telephone 309/353-6178 or Mike Gallion 309/535-2114.

27 FRANKSVILLE, WI. South Hills Country Club, 3047 Hwy. 94 Frontage Rd. (E. side of I-94, between Hwy. K & Hwy. 20). Racine Numismatic Society 62nd Annual Coin & Collectible Show. Bourse Chairman Jerome F. Binsfeld, Box 580191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158, telephone 414/843-2321 (days) or 414/654-6272 (evenings).

MARCH

3-5 STRONGSVILLE, OH. Michaud's Expo Center, 16808 Pearl Rd. (Rt. 42). Warrensville Heights Coin Club 39th Annual Coin Show. Chairman Bill Krizsan, c/o WHCC, P.O. Box 391441, Solon, OH 44139, telephone 440/248-4722.

12 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. Four Points Sheraton Inn, 525 33rd Ave. S.W. Cedar Rapids Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Nevin Roberts, 3065 19th Ave., Marion, IA 52302, telephone 319/377-6974.

12 LINCOLN, NE. Park Center, 2608 Park Blvd. Lincoln Coin Club Annual Show. Jim Bulmer, 1027 N. 2nd St., Seward, NE 68434, telephone 402/643-3339, E-mail jb91437@ltec.net.

18 SHEBOYGAN, WI. Armory, 516 Broughton Dr. Coin, Sportscard & Beanie Baby Show conducted by the Sheboygan Coin Club. Ed Rautmann, 1652 Riverdale Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081, telephone 920/452-0054.

19 SPRINGFIELD, IL. Northfield Center I (next to Juke Box Junction), 3210 Northfield Dr. (@ Dirksen Pkwy.). Central Illinois Numismatic Association

Membership News

Annual Spring Coin Show. Show Chairman Steve Butler, 1712 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704, telephone 217/528-7634.

26 FOSTORIA, OH. St. Wendelin High School Gym, 533 N. Countyline St. Fostoria Ohio Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Fostoria Coin Club. FCC, 432 Glenview Dr., Fostoria, OH 44830, telephone 419/435-7135.

26 MARION, IN. Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds. Marion Coin Club 42nd Annual Show. Show Chairman W. Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952, telephone 765/664-6520, E-mail sunray@comteck.com.

APRIL

2 MILAN, IL. Milan Community Center, Camden Park, U.S. Rt. 67. Quad City Coin Club Annual Spring Coin Show. Bourse Chairman John R. Brixey, 1553 39th St., Rock Island, IL 61201, telephone 309/788-8726.

WEST

FEBRUARY

4-6 PASADENA, CA. Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green St. (near 210, 134 & 110 Fwys.). Pasadena Coin, Stamp & Collectible Expo (PASPEX) held by the International Coin & Stamp Collectors Society. Israel I. Bick, P.O. Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408, telephone 818/997-6496, fax 818/988-4337, E-mail iibick@aol.com.

13 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post

Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show conducted by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

26-27 EUREKA, CA. Red Lion Hotel, 1929 4th St. Eureka Coin Club Coin Show. Chairman Harry Dixon, 3535 Albee St., Eureka, CA 95503.

26-27 GRAND RONDE, OR. Spirit Mountain Casino, Hwy. 18. McMinnville Coin Club Coin Show. Denny Magden, P.O. Box 415, McMinnville, OR 97128, telephone 503/472-6021, E-mail dmagden@onlinemac.com.

MARCH

11-12 TACOMA, WA. La Quinta Inn, Portland Ave. & I-5. Tacoma-Lake-wood Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. Paul Longcrier, P.O. Box 7626, Olympia, WA 98507, telephone 360/943-0492.

12 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show conducted by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 480/990-1007.

APRIL

9 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show conducted by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 480/990-1007.

15-16 FERNDALE, WA. Band Boosters Bingo Shoppe, 5330 LaBounty Dr. Bellingham Coin & Stamp Show sponsored by the Bellingham Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Marya Welch, 2932 E. Sunset Dr., Bellingham, WA 98225, telephone 360/647-1612.

CLUB NEWS

The **Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association (PNNA)** is calling for nominations for its Bob Everett Memorial Award. The recipient need not be a PNNA member but must have promoted numismatics in the Pacific Northwest during 1999. The award will be announced at the PNNA's 2000 convention in Portland, Oregon. Please send nominations in letter form to PNNA Secretary Joe Boling, P.O. Box 4718, Federal Way, WA 98063.

Attendees at the November meeting of the **Israel Numismatic Society/Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles (INS/ICCLA)** were treated to world-renowned medallist sculptor Alex Shagin's greatest works. A club member, Shagin spoke of his initial experiences in Russia in 1976 and of his most recent endeavors. David Gerski displayed a rare, Israeli error bank note and new acquisitions. In addition to door prizes, members received uncirculated Israeli coins. For more information about the club, write to INS/ICCLA, P.O. Box 3637, Thousand Oaks, CA 91357-0637.

Children ages 6 through 17 enjoyed a free coin auction conducted by New Jersey's **Ocean County Coin Club (OCCC)** at the Brick Library on Saturday, December 11. Nearly 30 kids (and a number of adults) attended the 2-hour numismatic briefing and auction. Each child received \$100 in club play money, and the few who did not win bids still went home with coins and door prizes. Club member donations covered the costs, and OCCC membership rolls increased by one regular and six junior recruits. For more

send Calendar of Events
entries to anaedi@money.org

Membership News

information, write to Jim Majoros, 65-16th St., Toms River, NJ 08753.

Founded in 1912, the **Rochester Numismatic Association (RNA)** has announced the 104th in a series of club medals. This millennial issue pictures an allegorical figure parting the curtain of the last century and soaring into the future. The reverse bears a stylized, art deco design, with the landmark dates 1912-2000 inscribed at the bottom.

Designed by Rochester sculptor Achille Forgiore and struck locally at the North American Mint, the 39mm medal is available in proof-like bronze for \$10 and in fine silver for \$20. Mintage is expected to be less than 100 pieces.

Individuals interested in purchas-



The Rochester Numismatic Association has produced a Year 2000 millennial medal, its 104th issue since the club's founding in 1912.

ing a medal should send payment plus \$3 postage to Rochester Numismatic Association, 50 Rogers

Pkwy., Rochester, NY 14617-4202.

The **Classical Numismatic Society of the Delaware Valley (CNSDV)** featured guest speaker Kerry Wetterstrom of *The Celator* at its November meeting. His topic, "The Ancient Coin Market, the Internet and the Next Millennium," covered much pertinent information. Discussion included proposed changes in antiquities laws, and challenges dealers encounter in producing and distributing high-quality catalogs for coin auctions in the face of rising costs. He also talked about the proliferation of the Internet and its impact on coin shows, auctions and marketing strategies. The CNSDV can be contacted at P.O. Box 164, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

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Membership News

OBITUARIES

CHARLES H. WOLFE SR.—LM 606

Charles H. Wolfe Sr., a noted numismatist and educator, died on January 4, 2000. He was 97.

Born in Port Clinton, Ohio, on October 27, 1902, Wolfe received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and journalism from the University of Michigan in 1923 and a master's degree in mathematics from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1941. He taught mathematics, science and journalism in schools in Port Clinton, Lakeside and Delaware, Ohio, and at both universities he attended. He also served as superintendent of

schools in Port Clinton and Lakeside.

Early in his career, Wolfe worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers in Detroit, Michigan, and Fremont, Sandusky and Lakeside, Ohio. As publicity director for the Lakeside Association and editor of the summer *Lakeside News* from 1929 to 1956, he interviewed many celebrities, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and aviator Amelia Earhart.

A specialist and a dealer in ancient, early English and medieval coins from 1943-87, Wolfe joined the ANA in 1955 and served on the board of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) in the 1970s. He served as an instructor in ancient numismatics at the ANA Summer Seminar, and in 1979 first sponsored



Charles Wolfe Sr. and his wife, Lillian, at the ANA's 95th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee in 1986.

the Association's best-in-show exhibit award for young numismatists (YNs), as well as a YN exhibit award for ancient and medieval material.

Wolfe was recognized by the ANA in 1981 with its Medal of Merit and in 1986 with the Association's highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service.

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Membership News

Wolfe was a member of the American Numismatic Society and the Society of Certified Professional Numismatists, and a fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society. He also was a Mason and a member of the Mathematical Association of America.

"For me, meeting Charles Wolfe was the highlight of the first ANA convention I attended," says ANA Museum Curator Robert W. Hoge, whose personal interests include ancient and medieval coins. "I had corresponded with him previously about numismatics and the hobby, and he was very helpful and encouraging."

Wolfe married Dessie L. Baker in 1924 and, following her death, married Lillian F. Zepp in 1976. He is survived by his wife; a son, Charles

H. Wolfe III; two stepsons, Leslie Gresham and Willard Harmon; a stepdaughter, Alice Apt; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

JACK L. WOOLF—ANA 37682

Jack Layton Woolf of Redding, California, died on November 4, 1999. He was 84.

He was born in Medford, Oregon, on May 20, 1915, and in 1950 moved to Redding with his wife, Alice, and son, Jack. He was a conductor with the United Transportation Union for Southern Pacific Railroad for 42 years, retiring in 1975.

Woolf joined the ANA in 1960. He received his silver 25-year membership medal in 1985.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years;

his son; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

- R 78388 **Lewis M. Culver**, Denver, CO (joined 1-74)
- R 133687 **John O. Dell**, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada (joined 2-87)
- R 51004 **John Griffiths**, Oak Creek, WI (joined 2-64)
- R 25753 **Bartloff Kosroffian**, Needham, MA (joined 5-56)
- R 163102 **Nathan S. Levenson**, Pittsburgh, PA (joined 1-94)
- R 179987 **Henry W. Parkhurst Jr.**, Milford, DE (joined 3-98)
- R 152753 **Clarence F. Sills**, Marshall, VA (joined 12-90)
- R 129874 **Martha V. Stevenson**, Richton Park, IL (joined 2-86)
- R 137526 **H. Donald Tefft**, North East, PA (joined 11-87)
- R 145222 **John P. Young**, Renton, WA (joined 6-89) •

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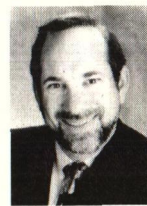
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Grading Classic Head Cents

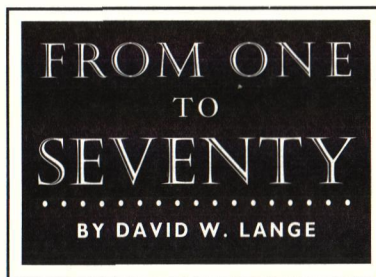
WHEN JOHN REICH was hired by the United States Mint in 1807, he immediately set about redesigning America's coinage. The new cent type, produced only from 1808 through 1814, became known as the Classic Head, referring to the bust of Liberty reminiscent of classical Greek or Roman portraiture. (For a time, this name was used concurrently with the appellation "Fillet Head," denoting the decorative ribbon Liberty wore around her head.) Because of a shortage of planchets, no cents were struck in 1815, and the Classic Head was replaced with a new design in 1816.

Despite being a relatively short series, the Classic Head cent presents a number of challenges to the collector. Primarily, these include planchet quality and striking characteristics. While a total of 19 varieties are known for the seven mintage dates, most are of interest only to specialists. Yet, even for collectors seeking just one of each date or a single specimen for a type set, it pays to know something about individual issues. *United States Large Cents, 1793-1814* by William C. Noyes is an excellent reference.

In 1796, after several years of attempting to roll and cut its own cent planchets, the U.S. Mint began ordering them ready-made from the English firm of Boulton & Watt. This practice remained in effect through the end of the large cent series, though the interruption in supply caused by the War of 1812 prompted Mint officials to seek a domestic contractor. (It was not until the 1830s, however, that an

American company was able to match Boulton & Watt's prices.)

The English firm's product evi-



dently was of lesser quality than that supplied previously, as Classic Head cents of all dates and varieties frequently are found on dark and/or porous planchets. This is especially apparent on uncirculated examples and also can affect the grading of lightly worn pieces.

In addition, from 1808 through 1814, the Mint used dies long after they should have been retired. United States silver and copper coins from this period frequently

show evidence of having been struck from extremely worn and badly cracked dies. (Gold coins, struck in much smaller numbers, seldom show such die wear.)

Classic Head cents, typically of mediocre quality to begin with, often are difficult to find in attractive condition. This is true at all grade levels, and mint-state specimens are quite scarce. As of October 1999, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) had certified only 104 examples in all mint-state grades.

The date most often available in uncirculated condition is 1814, for which NGC has certified a total of 36 pieces. The highest grade assigned thus far is Mint State (MS)-67 BN (brown), and only one such coin has been documented. The 1812 cent places second in overall availability, with a total of 25 pieces graded mint state. The finest specimen is a single coin graded MS-66 RB (red-brown).

Perhaps a practical goal for most collectors is the acquisition of an About Uncirculated (AU) piece. Choice examples in this grade also are quite scarce, though 1814 again is the most often encountered date. NGC has certified only 18 examples as AU-58 BN, a small number given the tremendous demand.

Aside from the scarcity of About Uncirculated Classic Head cents, the buyer faces the problem of finding coins with smooth planchets, free of voids and porosity. Also, many cents of this type have been cleaned and re-toned. While this does not necessarily make such pieces undesirable, it does preclude certification by the major grading services. •



Actual Size: 28.5mm

The Classic Head cent was produced only from 1808 through 1814.



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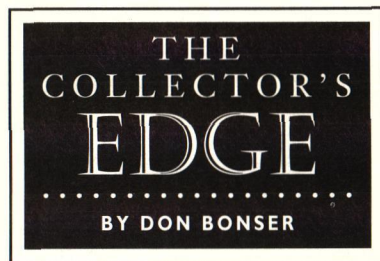


A Botched Cleaning Attempt

IT'S NEVER FUN to make mistakes (except maybe some of those wickedly fun escapades in college). However, errors do give us the opportunity to learn from experience. Hopefully, this column helps you avoid having to learn numismatic lessons the hard way.

Q. About a year ago, I began storing my Franklin half dollars (beautiful, Brilliant Uncirculated coins) in 2 x 2-inch, mylar flips. I placed one coin in each side of the holder and sealed it with standard plastic tape. A short time ago, I discovered that the edges of the coins had turned black, brown, yellow or gold, very likely

caused by the tape's disintegration and the fact that the holders were not airtight.



Alarmed by this discovery, I cleaned the toned edges with a smooth, rubber eraser and then immersed the coins in a light bath of

Ivory™ dishwashing soap, followed by a freshwater rinse. After they were dry, I placed the pieces in a 70-percent solution of isopropyl alcohol and stored the dry coins in a square tube. Was this the right thing to do?

—P.P., Florida

A. Not really. Let's go through this step by step. The mylar flips were fine, but, as you later realized, the transparent tape you used probably was the cause of the toning (or oxidation). A better way to isolate your coins from the atmosphere is to encase them in tight-fitting, inert plastic shells (like Kointains™) before placing them in mylar flips. This

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Dan Duncan, LM 5156

also helps prevent the coin from rubbing directly on the flip, which can cause small scratches.

Your next move likely was the most damaging. Erasers, no matter how smooth they seem, are abrasive and will scratch a coin's surface. I used the sample eraser you sent on my own, inexpensive, Franklin half dollar and created a multitude of small, hairline scratches. A better alternative would have been to ask a knowledgeable professional to use "dip" (a commercially available thiourea solution) to remove the oxidation. This often works well on Franklin halves.

The washing neither hurt nor helped your coins (although any cleaning product can cause problems with copper pieces). Storing the specimens in the square, plastic tube

should offer protection against oxidation and scratches.

Q. I recently acquired a collection of mint sets from 1952 to 1963. All are in their original packaging. What are your recommendations regarding the storage of mint sets that have paper holders? The coins already have toned (some well, others not so well). Does it lessen the value to store the pieces in Lucite™ holders, keeping the coins separate from the original paper holders?

—R.R., Missouri

A. Hard, inert acrylic holders are a fine choice for long-term storage. If you ever sell your mint set, you can place the coins back in their original holders, if that's what the next owner wants. I would be interested

to see a photocopy of some of the paper holders. The United States Mint issued mint sets in cardboard and paper holders from 1947 through 1949 and from 1951 through 1958. Two examples of each date and mintmark issued were included so obverse and reverse could be displayed at the same time. The later sets in your collection actually could be some sort of private fabrication, but likely are quite desirable to today's collectors.

Send any questions or comments about numismatic preservation to me in care of *The Numismatist*, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail anaedi@money.org. Keep in mind that your comments may be printed in this journal and edited for length and clarity. •



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Treasure of Xerxes Huge Hoard of Silver Buried circa 450 BC

And now, as he looked and saw the whole Hellespont covered with the vessels of his fleet and all the shore and every plain about Abydos as full as possible of his men, Xerxes congratulated himself upon his good fortune; but after a little while he wept. His uncle Artabanus, who was with him at the time, asked about this strange expression of contradictory feelings. 'I was thinking,' Xerxes replied, 'and it came into my mind how pitifully short human life is...'

Herodotus VII, 45-46

his moment in history described by the ancient historian Herodotus was perhaps one of the greatest military undertakings in history given the current technology. The accounts relate that the great Persian king Xerxes amassed an army of 1,700,000 men for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. An entire city was needed to feed the army just two meals, and an entire river ran dry when they drank. And, huge quantities of silver coins were struck to finance the massive military payroll and all the expenses of huge military operations. The Hellespont was the waterway, at least a mile wide, connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and separating Europe from Asia Minor. In order to move his vast army, Xerxes commanded his engineers, mostly Phoenicians and Egyptians, to build a bridge. To do this, 674 ships were tied together in a double row and planks were laid over the decks. The planks were covered with brushwood and dirt to create a road. Xerxes invaded Greece and very nearly succeeded in conquering the civilized world.

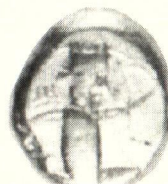
As the Persians moved through northern Greece, they were met at the pass of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans led by Leonidas fought to the last man, and successfully delayed the Persian advance long enough for the Greek cities to prepare. Although Xerxes captured Athens, the Athenians had fled with their fleet to the nearby island of Salamis where the Persian fleet was defeated by the more experienced Athenian navy. The army of the allied Greek city-states, led by Spartans was able to defeat the Persian army at Plataea in 479 BC and effectively ended Xerxes attempted conquest of Greece.

Xerxes is long dead, but his observations on the brevity of human existence still apply today, even though we average more than twice the usual life span of the ancients. By collecting, studying and handling the coins of the ancients, our human experience can be greatly enhanced. In our hands we have relics of great kings who commanded huge armies to conquer kingdoms now vanished. These treasures of precious metals that are now unearthed from the former paths of these ancient armies are sometimes the only tangible links that we have to those battles. Now you can expand your horizons to the Fifth Century BC with a modest contribution to the Jonathan K. Kern Co.

This hoard of silver was composed of over 100 pounds of struck sigloi. A single siglos averages 5.55 grams of nearly pure silver and depicts the Great King of Persia as an archer in an

action pose. Some interpret his posture as the archaic art expression of running, and others describe him as kneeling. These coins were struck with a heavy sledge hammer on very thick oblong planchets, much like silver bullets, with a handheld upper die depicting the archer. The lower die was probably embedded in wood or stone to secure it. The lower, or reverse die of these coins, was used in the manner of the very first coins ever produced in the world. This lower die was a roughly rectangular raised metal lump, appearing in hundreds of mysterious variations. The raised reverse die creates an incuse impression for the backs of the sigloi. Museum studies now in progress utilize the reverse incused impressions for quick die referencing, since the obverse impression of the Great King is frequently off center. These coins represented a huge explosion in the production of coined money, and were struck rapidly to fill the need for pre-weighted silver authorized by a powerful ruler.

The Great King is shown holding a spear and a bow on the sigloi attributed to the Asia Minor mint of Sardis, in Lydia and a bow and dagger on the other type which are possibly all from a different mint further south. Frequently they are countermarked with tiny punches by merchants or bankers, possibly to attest to the quality of the silver. We can sell either type in a **nice fine grade for \$37 each**, a **nice very fine for \$77 each** or a **nice extremely fine for \$277 each**. The raised obverse always grades much less than the incused reverse so our nice fine will usually have an extremely fine reverse.



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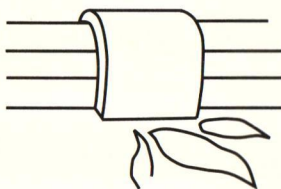
Surface Alterations— Part 2: Recutting

This installment of our series on surface alterations takes a look at “recutting,” a process by which a coin’s detail is enhanced by tooling. Although not as common as “whizzing” (see January 2000, p. 102), recutting occurs often enough that collectors should be mindful.

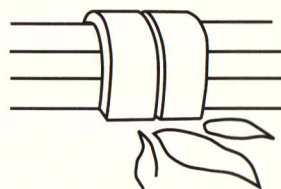
For example, a well-struck Mercury dime with fully divided (or “split”), horizontal bands on the fasces commands a significant premium. As a result, crafty “coin doctors” seize the opportunity to cash in by recutting the bands.

This fairly simple alteration also is fairly easy to spot with a standard loupe or magnifier. Most collectors quickly will note the additional space between the bands. Furthermore, the cutting tool displaces metal at the ends of the splits or even onto the bands themselves. Finally, the insides of the bands may be shiny, as the original metal flow on the sur-

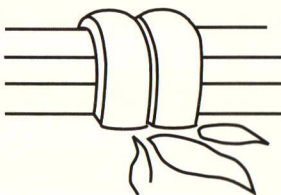
No Bands



Split Bands



Fully Split Bands



A knowledge of the bands on Mercury dimes is helpful in spotting recut areas.

face has been disturbed.

While Mercury dimes are the most common candidates for recutting, other coins also are susceptible,



On a weakly struck Standing Liberty quarter (Variety 2), Liberty's armor has been recut to enhance detail.

such as weakly struck Morgan dollars and Standing Liberty quarters. On Morgan dollars, the hair above Liberty's ear sometimes is recut. However, such enhancement rarely is deceptive, as it often results in obvious shiny spots.

The area most likely to be recut on Standing Liberty quarters (Variety 2) is Liberty's armor. The example shown here has been thoroughly recut to enhance detail.

While your chances of encountering a recut coin are very limited, it is wise to examine all coins closely and, when possible, compare them to other specimens. •

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This struck counterfeit 1882 gold \$5 recently was donated by a New England collector to the ANA Museum's counterfeit detection set. Diagnostics of this specimen include numerous depressions and raised lumps of metal, weak details, and tool-marks (spikes) emanating from the denticles.

Donations like this enable the ANA to document important characteristics and enhance its counterfeit detection seminars. Counterfeiters can produce thousands of fakes from one set of dies. Knowledge of diagnostics can help you spot spurious coins and ensure they are removed from the marketplace.

Actual Size: 21.54mm





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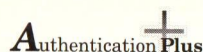
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- ANA will provide free insurance up to \$1,000 per item valued under \$5,000 (average). \$5,000 worth of free insurance, will be provided for each item valued at \$5,000 or more. Shipments valued higher are charged \$1.00 per thousand dollars of additional valuation. (see worksheet). This insurance covers only the period in which an item is in ANA's possession. (See #7 under ANA's Liability.)
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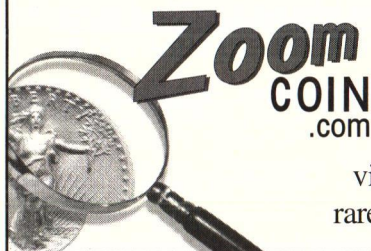
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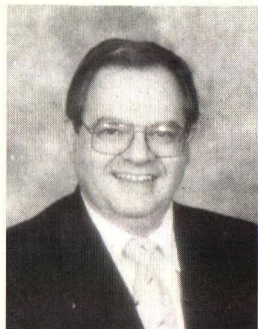
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Reviving Your Coin Club

continued from page 183

Consider having members as well as invited guests/speakers wear nametags at each meeting. Lots of us, particularly as our memories fail, have difficulty remembering all the names and faces we encounter. Visitors may not know anyone at the meeting, and infrequent attendees will welcome the nametags.

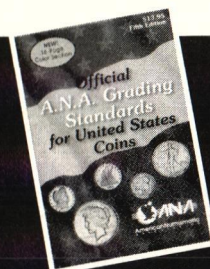
Consider appointing an official greeter, perhaps one of the club officers, whose assignment is to welcome visitors. The greeter should introduce visitors to members and try in every way possible—without being obnoxious, of course—to make them feel welcome and part of the meeting.

If business meetings are included

in your club's regular activities, make them short. Better yet, hold them *after* the program or auction, with an announcement that people are free to leave if they don't want to stay for the meeting.

COIN CLUBS CAN be an invaluable addition to the collecting experience. From what I have gathered, clubs that last almost invariably have education as their *raison d'être*. Apply the suggestions I've made, and I think your coin club will become an organization of which you can be proud. •

A long-time collector, B. Michael Thorne is a professor of psychology at Mississippi State University. He is a member of the Numismatic Literary Guild and has contributed a number of articles to THE NUMISMATIST, the last of which, "E.B. Tichener: Numismatist," appeared in the July 1996 issue.



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Ad Size	Ad Dimensions		Ad Frequency			
	INCHES	PICAS	1 TIME	3 TIMES	6 TIMES	12 TIMES
Full page	6 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{8}$	38 x 48.6	\$509	\$479	\$459	\$439
Half Page	6 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{8}$	38 x 23.6	269	259	244	229
Quarter Page	3 x 3 $\frac{1}{8}$	18 x 23.6	139	129	124	119
Display Classified	2 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 x 10.6	89	85	80	75

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contracts are available for 3-, 6- and 12-time placement. Frequency will be consecutive unless otherwise scheduled. Page position can be requested for regular advertisements, but cannot be guaranteed. No advertisements will be accepted from minors unless accompanied by a statement of financial responsibility signed by a parent or legal guardian. In keeping with the Hobby Protection Act, advertisements for reproductions or imitations of numismatic items must clearly state that they are not original items. Photographs of these items must show they have been marked with the word "COPY" and must include the date of manufacture. *The Numismatist* specifically reserves the right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, or to decline any advertisement in part or in whole.

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Advertisers are required to be members of the American Numismatic Association and must submit the name and ANA membership number of owners and/or principal officers of the firm, as well as one banking and three business references.

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Two Unique Coins of India's Native States

The ANA Museum's collection is becoming one of the largest of its kind and includes examples from most areas of numismatics. Thanks to the generosity of donors who have contributed pieces from their personal holdings or have had their estates make these materials available, some particularly significant and unusual specimens now reside at the ANA's Colorado Springs headquarters. These generous gifts enhance the ANA's educational mission and will continue to provide cultural enlightenment for generations to come.

The Robert T. Herdegen Memorial Collection is a wonderful Museum resource. This outstanding assortment of more than 6,000 pieces was donated by Herdegen's widow, Genevieve, and encompasses items from all over the world. The collection's particular emphasis, however, is on the coins of the British Empire and the German States.

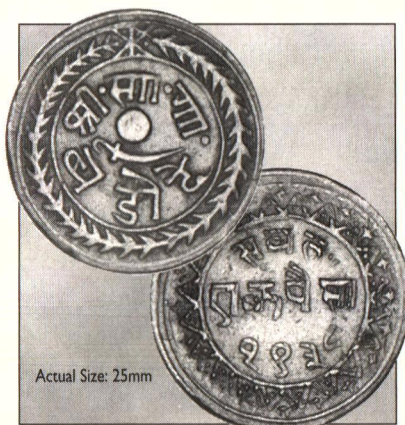
Thanks to Herdegen's thematic approach, the Museum cabinet now boasts a fine collection of Indian Native States coinages struck under the British Raj. Two of the more intriguing specimens are featured in this month's column. Though they are from the same region and time period, the coins are different and unique, each in their own way.

One very peculiar coin is a copper paisa of the Gaekwar raja Sayaji Rao III (1875-1939) of Baroda, dated 1938 of the Samvat Era (A.D. 1881). It falls into a period of transition from the crude, hand-struck native

issues to the rather finely made, machine-struck series featuring a hoof along with a *tulwar* (scimitar) as symbols of the state. The hand-struck coinages, displaying a large dot (or possibly a rose) and tulwar, were suspended the year before this piece was struck.

Regular-issue, machine-minted series only commenced in Baroda in S.E. 1940 (A.D. 1884), while a concomitant coinage of hand-struck pieces occurred in S.E. 1947, '48 and '49. The ANA coin is machine-struck, but features the older dot/rose instead of a hoof on the obverse and has types unlike those of either the older or newer series.

Its workmanship is fairly crude. The obverse displays the dot and tulwar at the center, surrounded by the Nagari inscription SHRI SAA GAA/BARODE within an inner circle, surrounded by a spiky wreath within an outer circle. ("Saa Gaa" is an abbreviation of the monarch's name, Sayaji Rao Gaekwar. The form "Gaa" was used by his predecessor, Malhar Rao, but is otherwise unknown on issues of Sayaji). Within



Pictured is an unlisted, copper paisa of Baroda, Sayaji Rao III (ANA Museum Accession No. 1976.700.6438, weight 8.094g, axis 135°).



This gold 1/8 ashrafi of Hyderabad's Mir Usman Ali Khan is considered unique (ANA Museum Accession No. 1976.700.6454, weight 1.369g, axis 0°).

an ornamental border, the reverse inscription simply reads "Samvat/one paisa/1938."

Although this piece shows some evidence of circulation, it actually may be some sort of trial or pattern piece. At this time, the coin appears to be unique.

Our second specimen has been included in recent editions of Krause Publications' *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, but without an illustration or the recognition it deserves. This is a gold 1/8 ashrafi of the State of Hyderabad, struck by the nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan in his accession year, Anno Hejira (A.H.) 1329 (A.D. 1911). It is of a distinct type, represented only by this piece, the half ashrafi and ashrafi of 1329, and the ashrafi of 1330. These were the first issues of the new nizam; all feature a partial form of the Arabic letter *ain* (shown within the doorway arch on the obverse).

The ANA coin is the only known example of this 1/8 ashrafi issue (although Krause lists it as "rare," not "unique"). Its status has been confirmed by well-known author, South Asian specialist and Friends of the ANA Museum (FANAM) member William F. Spengler. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for his valued assistance and input regarding these and other South Asian coins.

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AUCTION INSIGHTS

Mail-Bid Sale Features Colonial Currency

A December 11, 1999, mail-bid sale conducted by Early American History Auctions of La Jolla, California, featured 1,403 lots of autographs, coins, paper money, encased postage stamps and Americana. Numismatic highlights included a 1792 Washington "Roman Head" cent (\$21,721), complemented by a gold 1799 oval Washington funeral badge (\$13,800) and a McKinney and Hall color portrait of Chief Red Jacket wearing a large, silver 1792 oval Washington peace medal (\$3,450).

Two notes engraved by Paul Revere, both with a due date of 1776, realized \$5,177 and \$5,867. In Pennsylvania currency, a 1777 "Middle-Ferry on Schuylkill" uncut, double-panel sheet of five notes sold for \$2,588. A United States Treasury fractional currency "shield" (a montage of notes used to help identify counterfeit issues) brought \$4,600. A 1652 Willow Tree shilling went for \$6,440, while a scarce 1800 \$10 gold piece sold for \$5,865 and a rare, silver 1877 North American Indian peace medal garnered \$10,063.

The firm's next mail-bid sale, slated for February 12, will feature 1,316 lots of numismatic material, autographs and Americana, including a large selection of Continental and colonial currency. To learn more, contact Early American History Auctions, P.O. Box 3341, La Jolla, CA 92038, telephone 858/459-4159, fax 858/459-4373 or E-mail auctions@EarlyAmerican.com.



Not Actual Size

Featured at the Triton III public and mail-bid sale were a silver stater from Phaestos in Crete (bottom) and a rare gold aureus of Roman consul T. Quinctius Flamininus, one of only six known.

In conjunction with the New York International Numismatic Convention, Classical Numismatic Group, Numismatica Ars Classica AG, and Freeman and Sear conducted its Triton III auction on November 30 and December 1. The sale featured more than 1,800 lots, among them **Greek, Roman and British** coinage collected by Marian Sinton of California. For prices realized, visit www.HistoricalCoins.com.

Numismatik Lanz München, an auction house situated in Munich's banking quarter, has announced its foray into cyberspace. Founded in Graz, Austria, in 1947 by Hermann Lanz, the firm expanded to Germany in 1977 and now has a worldwide presence on the Internet, thanks to its collaboration with eBayGreatCollections.com. The October launch of the new site highlighted scores of collectibles, among them Numismatik Lanz München's **gold Celtic 1/4 stater**. Collectors can view other Numismatik Lanz München offerings by visiting the firm's web site at www.numislanz.com.



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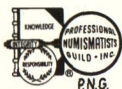
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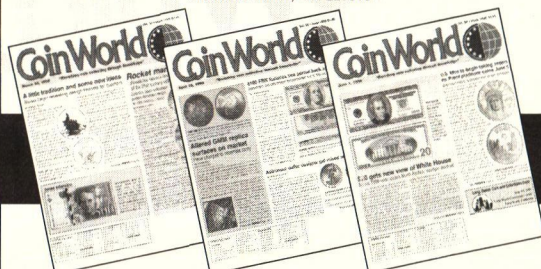
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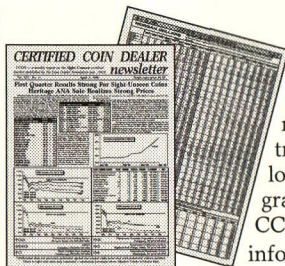
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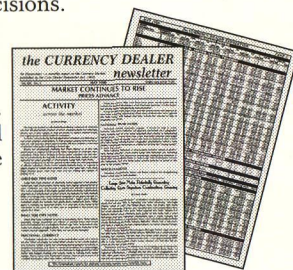
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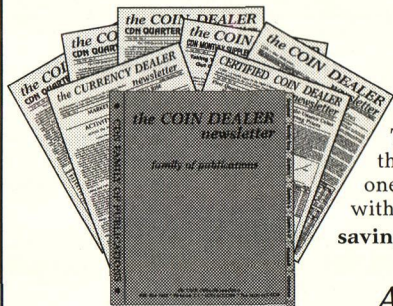
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PHILABUSTER: “Thank you! Let's meet our returning contestant, a typical coin collector, Mr. Rob Blind of Incuse, Iowa. Are you ready to play again?”

BLIND: “Yes, I'm ready.”

PHILABUSTER: “Are you sure? Is that your final answer?”

BLIND: “We haven't even started the game yet. Yes, I'm ready.”

PHILABUSTER: “OK, you've earlier answered 93 unbelievably trivial questions about coin and paper money collecting. This next question is for \$500,000. Are you sure you want to go for it?”

BLIND: “Why else would I be listening to you blabber when I could be doing something truly stimulating, like reading ANA Board meeting minutes?”

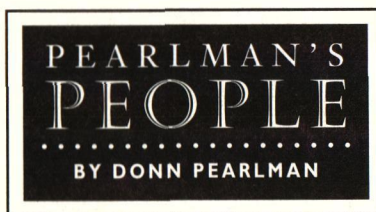
PHILABUSTER: “I presume that's your final answer. So, here's the question. What is the name of the monthly magazine published by the American Numismatic Association? Is it: A) *The American Philatelist*; B) *The Numismatist*; C) *Harvard Law Review*; or D) *Mad*?”

BLIND: (Looks confused. Sweat appears on his brow.) “Hmmm. I'd like to use one of my lifelines. I want to call another coin collector.”

PHILABUSTER: “And who would that be? The president of the ANA?”

BLIND: “No, I want to call Dennis Rodman.”

PHILABUSTER: “Of course, the coin-collecting, former basketball player.” (Sound of ringing phone is



heard while Philabuster looks directly into camera, feigning interest.)

RODMAN: “Hello?”

PHILABUSTER: “Mr. Rodman, this is Egregious Philabuster from *Who Wants to Be a Coin Weenie?* Our current contestant wants your assistance in answering a question worth \$500,000.”

RODMAN: “Cool, man. \$500,000? That would buy me a lotta tattoos.”

PHILABUSTER: “Here's the question. What is the name of the monthly magazine published by the American Numismatic Association? Is it: A) *The American Philatelist*; B) *The Numismatist*; C) *Harvard Law Review*; or D) *Mad*?”

RODMAN: “That's easy, man. It's not *Harvard Law Review* because I read that, and there's hardly anything in there about coins. *The American Philatelist* is for stamp weenies, and *Mad* is not as funny as the ANA's magazine. I'll go with B) *The Numismatist*. Now, can I go back to watching *Baywatch*?” (Hangs up.)

BLIND: “I'll agree and say, B) *The Numismatist*.”

PHILABUSTER: “B) *The Numismatist*. Is that your final answer?”

BLIND: “Didn't you hear us both say it? Your IQ must be lower than

Rodman's old jersey number.”

PHILABUSTER: “Are you sure? Is that your final answer?”

BLIND: “Yes, I want B) *The Numismatist*. And yes, that's my final answer, bullion brain.”

PHILABUSTER: (After an overly long pause.) “No, I'm sorry, the correct answer is D) *Mad*. The ANA Board sold *The Numismatist* to Amos Press last week and has replaced it with *Mad*. In fact, they've already changed the name of the magazine's mascot to Alfred E. Numismatist.”

BLIND: “Son of a gun! I sure could have used that half million. I was going to buy coins from that friendly telemarketer who calls every night.”

PHILABUSTER: “Well, I'm sorry about that, but we do have some nice parting gifts for you.”

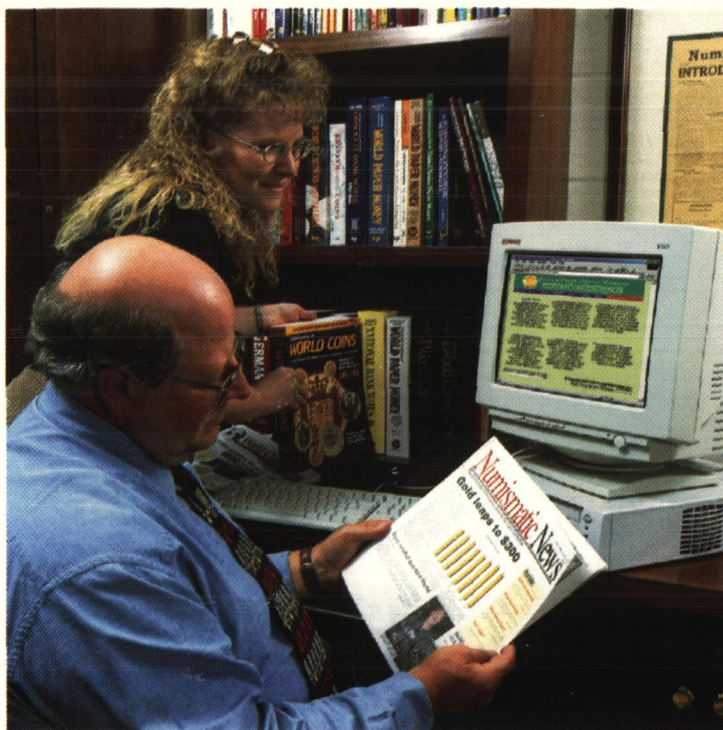
TV ANNOUNCER: “Rob, here's what you'll get: A slightly worn copy of a 1983 ‘Red Book’ so you can kick yourself for not purchasing gem-quality coins when the market was low, and the play-at-home version of *Who Wants to Be a Coin Weenie?*, complete with do-it-yourself slabs from 27 different coin grading services . . . all yours for being a near-idiot on national television and missing such an easy question!”

PHILABUSTER: “Well, we're out of time. Join us tomorrow night when our next contestant will be selected from among Fellows of the American Numismatic Society and big guys with weird nicknames from the World Wrestling Federation.” •

Former ANA Governor Donn Pearlman (donnpr@aol.com) was permitted to emcee the annual ANA World Series of Numismatics . . . only once.

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